CASHBOX
THE ENTERTAINMENT TRADE MAGAZINE

VOL. LIX, NO. 26

Newspaper $3.95

Ricky Martin Matures
In Latin Music

Inside:
Morissette, Seal Pace Grammy Awards
Cover Story
The Grooming Of Ricky Martin
As the various permutations of Latin-influenced music begins to ride a crest of burgeoning popularity, and music its way into mainstream consciousness, artists like Sony Discos recording act Ricky Martin seem poised to capitalize on the phenomena. The former member of Latin teen hopper heart throb act Menudo, who has successfully launched as a solo act and is visible as a cast member on the venerable ABC-TV soap General Hospital, talked with Cash Box Latin editor Hector Resendez about his career.

—see page 5

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Morissette, Seal Win Top Honors At 38th Annual Grammy Awards

A FESTIVE ATTITUDE permeated the 38th Annual Grammy Awards celebration as some highly-touted talent walked off with awards, some other highly-touted talent did not, and some long-shots came into the prized Grammy money... Held once again at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, and hosted by TV funny woman Ellen DeGeneres, this year's awards presentations involved a wide cross-section of artists that reflected both the growing diversity and acceptance of new music. While the nominees reflected what is hopefully a new trend in the acceptance of fresh sounds, the results of the final ballots, with only a few exceptions were true to past form.

Canadian viewers should be quite pleased with tonight's results as Alanis Morissette walked away with several of the night's key awards. The winner of Best Album, as well as Best Female Rock Vocal Performance, Morissette's win reflects what is hopefully a growing trend in the acceptance of rock vocals delivered from a decidedly female perspective.

Hootie & the Blowfish also had a big evening winning two awards, for Best New Artist and Best Pop Performance By A Duo or Group With Vocals. The enormously popular band, whose debut Atlantic Records album Cracked Rear View has sold in excess of 12 million units, was quite pleased at their win. During their press room interview after receiving the last award, the band members were quick to downplay their success, preferring to categorize themselves as a group of serious musicians doing music that caught on. "We're just some fellows doing what we love to do, and it's great that so many people out there agree," said Blowfish lead singer Darius Rucker. That Warner recording artist Seal took home the evening's biggest awards— for Record Of The Year and Song Of The Year—was a shock to most industry pundits present. Although a popular artist, the general feeling was that Seal's music was a bit too esoteric to receive such top honors.

In the night's other big categories the winners were, Pearl Jam for Best Hard Rock Performance, Vince Gill for Best Male Country Vocal Performance, Coolio for Best Rap Solo Performance, Annie Lennox for Best Pop Vocal Performance, Cee Ce Winans for Best Gospel, Alison Kraus for Best Female Country Vocal Performance, Pat Matheny Group for Best Contemporary Jazz Performance, Izaak Perlman for Best Instrumental Solo Performance, Babymetal for Producer of the Year, Nirvana for Best Alternative Music

CAPITOL'S URBAN DEPT. TO JOIN WITH EMI

IN A MOVE THAT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS Thorn-EMI shut down the urban department at Capitol Records with plans to unify resources in this area with EMI Records. Employees of the Hollywood-based company were notified of their termination Friday, February 24. In a joint statement issued by Capitol president Gary Gersh and EMI president David Sigerson, the move will allow for a streamlined chain of command in the label's operation. Gersh and Sigerson commented: "This reflects the realities of the music industry in the '90s. The ultimate result of this reengineering will be that artists benefit by receiving focused A&R, marketing and promotional attention from a specialized hands-on staff."

The move seems to clear the way for Capitol to focus on the rock acts that have provided Gersh with the commercially successful breakthroughs since he's taken over the helm at the company. Acts such as Foo Fighters, whose self-titled album has sold more than one million units, and Everclear also a major success for Capitol last year. EMI, on the other hand, can boast a major success with artist D'Angelo's platinum-selling debut Brown Sugar, and scored a top 10 rap single with AZ's "Snowed In," and pushed Home, the debut album by Blessed Union of Souls, to gold status.

Although many of Capitol's acts will be absorbed into the urban division at EMI, at press time it remained unclear which acts are involved. However, it has been confirmed that the Whispers, Portrait, Channel Live and Mad Cobra will still remain with the company. It also appeared at press time that acts on Delicious Vinyl will not be affected by this development. Managerial representatives of the affected Capitol recording artists at press time refused comment until specific details of the transition were revealed.

Sources at the venerable label have expressed dismay with the recent move, which is similar to actions taken by the label in 1993. "How can anyone believe that they (Capitol) are really committed to urban music forms when they continue to play musical chairs with their urban artists and executives?" commented one source that asked not to be identified. "It's unfair, wrong and indicative of the problems and attitudes facing blacks and other minorities in this business."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)
MUSIC SWEETER THAN HERRINGS: The band of Abba and Ace Of Base is not exactly foreign to climbing up the charts, and now you can add another pretender to the pop throne—The Cardigans. The five seons of Viking ancestry have a decidedly '70s feel as they sweep you off your feet with perfect pop. A favorite on the charts in England and already selling double platinum in Japan, the group finally has product available domestically. The Cardigans has combined tracks off its two Swedish releases and added some previously unreleased material for its American debut Life, out on the Chicago-based Minty Fresh. With the enchanting Nina Persson fronting the band and the music as catchy as can be, there is no doubt that The Cardigans will be winning many a heart and plenty of ears as they trek through the airwaves of this land.

ONE FOOT OUT OF THE GRAVE: It has happened to many a respected label—they get critical acclaim and a loyal listenership, expand and then promptly start to fall apart business-wise. The garage rock Crypt has fallen into this trap, but has now been able to stop the bells from tolling. Well known for resurrecting songs and bands from the depths of time, and for pushing such new groups as New Bomb Turks, The Gories, and the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, Crypt has plenty on the plus side. Due to mismanagement, the label faltered but is now looking for a new life as its American office is being taken over by Brett Martin. They are also moving from New York to Los Angeles to share office space with the philosophically similar In The Red Records. Now that they will be in the City of Angels they should have no problem keeping themselves from being put into the musical mauzoleum.

FRENCHMAN GETS TRANSLATED: Most tribute albums feature a mixture of styles from different artists, and generally are a hit or miss affair. Intoxicated Men out on Mute, breaks this tradition by having the whole LP done by the same musicians. The LP is homage to French crooner Serge Gainsbourg, well known not only for his compositions but also for his flaunting of taboo subjects and flamboyant lifestyle. Mick Harvey, who took on this project has been a member of The Birthday Party, Crime & The City Solution and Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds. Not only did he write new arrangements but he also translated all of the lyrics into English. Accompanied on vocals by Anita Lane, the album captures the feel of thegaudic origins and in many ways improves on them. It has also brought a resurgence of interest in Mr. Gainsbourg's recordings, which is about as good a tribute as one can get.

ONCE AND ONO-LY ONCE: She didn't perform live very often, even before the death of her husband, but since it has been rare as rabies. So here is a chance to see Yoko Ono get on stage and perform a set of her new and old material on March the 6th at the Knitting Factory along with her son Sean Ono Lennon and his band Inva. Who knows who will walk the floorsboards with her on this once in a blue moon evening?

WITH A CRITICALLY-LAUDED new album, I'm With Stupid, out on DGC/Geffen, former Til Tuesday vocalist Aimee Mann returned to L.A. after a month on the road to play two sold-out shows at the Roxy on the same night. The demand for the 8:00 show was so heavy that a 10:30 performance was added. Playing her first official shows in her adopted hometown since a sold-out performance at the Troubadour last July, Mann welcomed fans to the second show by declaring, "The first show was just a warm-up for this one."

She then performed like that was the case, coming out with a group of songs from the new album. Backed by a strong four-piece band, Mann proved during the set that she can rock early and often. Among the early highlights were "It's All Over Now," the much requested "Superbad" and "Choice In The Matter," the disc's first single. Jumping around like she was Pete Townsend, Mann proved to be highly-animated, especially given she was playing the second of two performances that evening. However, the evening's high point came when she slowed down the pace with the lovely "For The Course."

Opening the show was newly signed I.R.S., band 3-Day Wheely. About to go on the road with the Gin Blossoms, the LA-based act is the recipient of a growing buzz. Playing selections from its debut EP, Rocket Science, 3 Day Wheely definitely had the crowd on its side. The consensus after the band departed the stage was most favorable. Be on the lookout for this group.

TWO SEMINAL PERFORMERS of the New York scene will make their way west the week following South By Southwest. Lou Reed, who just released another brilliant album, Set The Twilight Reeling, on Warner Bros., will be at the Wiltern Theatre on Monday, March 18. Perhaps even more exciting is the news that Arista recording artist Patti Smith is doing a March 23 show at the same venue. Smith, who came through last year for a few spoken word dates, has in recent years toured as often as Boston, making this one for the ages.
The Ricky Martin Matures Along With Latin Music's Popularity

By Hector Reséndez

FROM TROPIC ISLE TO TINSEL TOWN For singer-actor, Ricky Martin, life has been somewhat like a Hollywood movie. The Latin American superstar has yet to reach his mid-twenties. Yet, fame and fortune are already in his back pocket, and most deservedly so. Martin has struggled diligently to mature into a consummate entertainer.

It all started when he was an integral part of the teen Puerto Rican pop group, Menudo, at age 12. Individual members were replaced once they approached adulthood. By the time he turned 17, Martin left the island and ventured to New York City to establish his own career. “My first love has always been music,” he explained in a recent interview. “I’ve always wanted to be an entertainer...to sing, dance and act.”

Spending a year studying dance and voice, Martin left for Mexico. He starred in a musical, *Mamá Ama Al Rock* (Mom Loves Rock) and the immensely popular soap opera, *Alcanzar Una Estrella (To Reach A Star).*

"I first went solo as a singer in 1991 (with the album Ricky Martin)," recalled Martin. His second album, *Me Amartás,* followed in the same commercially-successful vein as his first production. Yet, Martin was still deeply interested in pursuing other artistic goals, one of them being acting.

With the guidance of his manager, Ricardo Cordero, Martin took aim at the role of Miguel on the king of soaps, ABC’s *General Hospital.* What helped, reflected Martin, was a well-executed five-year plan by the artist and Cordero.

Key ABC producers and other decision makers were presented with the usual pitching material. In addition, they were invited to a few of Martin’s sold-out concert performances in South America. "I was signed to the show in 1993," beamed Martin. "The following year, I agreed to do a movie-of-the-week and a series pilot." The 24-year-old heart-throb of the tiny screen wouldn’t even mind starring in a big musical or two like *Les Misérables* or *Hamlet.*

Martin has been residing in Los Angeles for the past two years. He is appreciative, however, of the fact that the producers of *General Hospital* allow him a good deal of flexibility with his schedule. "My character is a weekend entertainer. So, he (Miguel) takes off from time to time to do gigs. This is usually coordinated with my real-life commitments," explained Martin. Keeping up with this young man’s business itinerary is a major accomplishment.

Aside from numerous recording sessions in the near future, Martin’s first love is performing live. The pop star tours Mexico and Latin America so often, Univision’s TV host, Chabeli Iglesias (daughter of Julio), took her crew to the land of the Aztecs to capture Martin on tape.

A younger-oriented version of the Barbara Walters special, Iglesias filmed Martin in Mexico City where he originally starred in his first soap. She also followed him to Texas where he served as a beauty contest judge. Furthermore, Iglesias might trace Martin back home to Los Angeles, to Chile and even Spain. Life is harsh.

His current, and third solo, album for Sony Discos, *A Medio Vivir,* has already gone platinum in the United States. Martin co-wrote one of the album’s songs as well as pulling material from Venezuela’s Franco De Vita and Spain’s Alejandro Sanz, both major pop stars in their own right. The album is produced by fellow ex-Menudo peer Robi Baza (aka Ian Blake on the credits) and the highly regarded K.C. Porter. It clearly shows the evolving maturity of Martin’s talent as an international singer.

For Ricky Martin, his career will continue to flourish both on music charts and in the hearts of *General Hospital* fans.
This Week's #1:  
Mary J. Blige

To Watch:  
Sophie B. Hawkins

1. NOT GON' CRY (FROM "WAITING TO EXHALE")  
(Arista 12797)  
Mary J. Blige  
Whitney Houston  
1 8

11. I WANNA BE WITH YOU  
(Columbia 04377)  
Marlisa Carey  
Smashing Pumpkins  
13 2

21. MARIAH CAREY  
(MCA 55215)  
Gayle Tea  
Irene Cara  
16 4

31. TONY BROWN  
(Def Jam 55320)  
Ahmad Rashad  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

41. FELICITY  
(Triumph Records 50453)  
Ahmad Rashad  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

51. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

61. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

71. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

81. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

91. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

101. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

111. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

121. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

131. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

141. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

151. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

161. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

171. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

181. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

191. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

201. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

211. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3

221. LONDON'S ON FIRE  
(MCA 55215)  
Puff Daddy  
CELEBRATION (FROM "TOKO"")  
(Outpost/Interscope 05453)  
Monica Feat. Lost Boyz  
56 3
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## CASH BOX
### TOP 100 POP ALBUMS
#### MARCH 9, 1993

### This Week's #1:
- **2Pac**

### To Watch:
- **Fugees**

### #1 1996 GRAMMY NOMINEES (Columbia 87959)
- Various Artists

### #2 COLLECTIVE SOUL (Atlantic/AG 82745)
- Collective Soul

### #3 DANGEROUS MINDS (MCA 11228)
- Soundtrack

### #4 ALICE IN CHAINS (Columbia 87248)
- Alice In Chains

### #5 ONE HOT MINUTE (Warner Bros 45733)
- Red Hot Chili Peppers

### #6 TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER (Chordando 20077)
- Newboys

### #7 DON'T BE A MENACE TO SOUTH CENTRAL (Island 52414)
- Soundtrack

### #8 IT MATTERS TO ME (Warner Bros 45732)
- Faith Hill

### #9 RESIDENT ALIEN (Hilltop/CBS 61354)
- Spacehog

### #10 E. 1999 ETERNAL (Ruthless/Relativity 55399)
- Bone Thugs N Harmony

### #11 MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS (Polydor 29068)
- Soundtrack

### #12 LOOKING EAST (Elektra 61867)
- Jackson Browne

### #13 BLOOM (Chordando 25144)
- Audio Adrenalina

### #14 OZZMOSIS (Epic 69391)
- Ozzy Osbourne

### #15 Q'S JOOK JOINT (Crown 45789)
- Quincy Jones

### #16 THE HITS (Uptown 24689)
- Garth Brooks

### #17 SOLO (Perspective/A&M 64901)
- Solo

### #18 JOCK JAMS VOL. 1 (Tommy Boy 1137)
- Various Artists

### #19 FROGSTOMP (Hue/Sony 31579)
- Silverchair

### #20 DEAD MAN WALKING (Columbia 87522)
- Soundtrack

### #21 MORTAL KOMBAT (Tyr 510)
- Soundtrack

### #22 HELL FREEZES OVER (Geffen 24729)
- The Eagles

### #23 GREATEST HITS (Capitol 30334)
- Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band

### #24 NEW BEGINNINGS (Elektra 61850)
- Tracy Chapman

### #25 OFF THE HOOK (Go Go Def/Columbia 67022)
- Xscape

### #26 PULP FICTION (MCA 11103)
- Soundtrack

### #27 TIME MARCHES ON (Atlantic 82680)
- Tracy Lawrence

### #28 VAULT (Mercury 52878)
- Def Leppard

### #29 DESIGN OF A DECADE 1986-1996 (A&M 540309)
- Janet Jackson

### #30 KORN (Immortal/Epic 66833)
- Korn

### #31 THE SONGS OF WEST SIDE STORY (The Grammy Recording/RCA Victor 62707)
- Various Artists

### #32 BEAUTIFUL GIRLS (Elektra 61636)
- Soundtrack

### #33 ALL I WANT (Island 71760)
- Tim McGraw

### #34 GREATEST HITS 1985-1995 (Columbia 67300)
- Michael Bolton

### #35 THROWING COPPER (Radioactive/MCA 10997)
- Live

### #36 A THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE & HATE (Warner Bros 45134)
- Soundtrack

### #37 11 (Motown 53023)
- Boyz II Men

### #38 FILTH PIG (Warner Bros 45536)
- Ministry

### #39 FOO FIGHTERS (Capitol 34027)
- Foo Fighters

### #40 ASTRO-CREEP 2000 (Geffen 24800)
- White Zombie

### #41 HOME (Ruffhouse/Interscope 20828)
- Deep Blue Something

### CYRUS HILL III (TEMPLES OF BOOM)
- Various Artists

### RUFFHOUSE/COLUMBIA 69119
- Various Artists

### RUBBERNECK (Interscope/AG 622402)
- The Pixies

### THE BRIDGE (RCA 62786)
- Ace Of Base

### STARTING OVER (MCA 11264)
- Reba McEntire

### ..AND OUT COME THE WOLVES (Epic/66444)
- Rancid

### ANTHOLOGY 1 (Apple/Capitol 34444)
- The Beatles

### BLACK CLUB MIX '96 VOL. 1 (Cold Front/Real 6218)
- Various Artists

### JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY
- John Michael Montgomery

### ATLANTIC 87276
- John Michael Montgomery

### DREAMING OF YOU (EMI 34123)
- Selena

### JESUS FREAK (Forefront/Chordando 25140)
- DC Talk

### WE GOT IT (MCA 1385)
- Immature

### SOUL FOOD (Laface/Arista 26318)
- Goodie Mob

### THE REMIX COLLECTION (Motown 530548)
- Boyz II Men

### ACTUAL MILES: HENLEY'S GREATEST HITS
- Don Henley

### FRIENDS (Warner Bros 40006)
- Soundtrack
REVIEWS by Steve Baltin

COWBOY JUNKIES: Lay It Down (Geffen 24952)
The Toronto quartet follows up the superb Pale Sun, Crescent Moon collection with its 13-song Geffen debut. Once again guitarist Michael Timmins flexes his creative muscle by co-producing with John Keane, and writing 12 tracks while co-writing the majority. "Musical Key" with sister/vocalist Margo Timmins. Yet, it's still Margo's stunning vocals that define the band's sound. Whether it be on the bluesy "A Common Disaster," the record's first single, or the ambient title track, Margo shows that after a decade she can still put on a few icebergs with her sultry song stylings. Look for decent Triple A support for this project.

MICHAEL FEINSTEIN: Nice Work If You Can Get It: Songs By The Gershwins (Atlantic 82833-2)
If you're looking for a little change of pace, Feinstein's slightly jazzly, slightly Adult Contemporary homage to the classics of George and Ira Gershwin is a pleasant way to spend an afternoon or evening. What makes Feinstein's interpretations of classics like "Someone To Watch Over Me" and "They Can't Take That Away From Me," as well six never published tunes available on record for the first time, work is the sincerity he brings to the material. An obvious fan, Feinstein brings a devil-may-care attitude that spices up his crooning.

BALLOON GUY: The West Coast Shakes (Generator/Warner Bros. 46035-2)
Made up of four guys from Minnesota who wound their way to Minneapolis, Balloon Guy follows up its critically-acclaimed triple debut EP, Soundball, with this major label debut. Led by the sterling guitars of Matt Olson and Mike Hill, it's easy to see why a lot of labels were in a hurry to make Balloon Guy a part of their stable. Part psychedelic, slightly grunge (for lack of a better word) and all rock, The West Coast Shakes is a strong debut with multiple tracks that will appeal to young rock fans. Standouts include "Mister Runs A Lot Like She Does," "Tipsy Russell" and "Springtime In Ho Chi Minh City." Yes, this band does have a sense of humor, too.

VARIOUS ARTISTS: Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead (A&M 04242)
Befitting the cool underground nature of this critically-acclaimed gangster film, the producers of the accompanying soundtrack have compiled a stellar roster of musicians known for their hipness. All that really needs to be said is that the 13-track disc opens with Tom Waits' "Jockey Full Of Bourbon." Waits is backed up by artists ranging from Dean Martin to Morphine, from Apc Hangers to Johnny Cash. Featuring both established and up and coming acts, Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead offers something for music fans of all ages.

WALT MINK: El Producto (Atlantic 82831-2)
A Minneapolis (the city of choice this week apparently in new releases) trio, Walt Mink establish from the get-go that they can rock with the best of 'em. The band comes out strong on the high-energy "Stood Up." John Kunbrongh, Candice Belzoff and Orestes Moran follow that with more power pop/punk numbers, but on "Bettina" and the soothing "Settled," the threesome prove it has more than one sound in their future. This could be a sleeper Modern Rock hit.

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PICK OF THE WEEK

NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS: Murder Ballads (Reprise 46195-2)
What it says about Nick Cave, the person, that this was the album he was born to make, is open to debate, but what it says about Nick Cave, the musician, is that no one does darkness better than the husky-voiced icon of the gothic scene. Yet, this collection of 10 tales of murder and man's dark side is more than just Cave does murder. On the vicious "Stagger Lee," a story similar to Jim Croce's "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown," only updated for the '90s in language and graphic detail, and the beautiful "Henry Lee," where Cave and B. Harvey do a brilliant job of trading off vocals, Cave proves he has grown as an artist to the point that he now transcends the genre he helped to define. And by closing the disc with the sing-along "Death Is Not The End," Cave makes sense of the brutality with a surprisingly optimistic turn that can't help but get fans excited for what the future holds. Highlighting superb songwriting, Murder Ballads is a stunning work from a man on the threshold of becoming an artist.
**CASH BOX TOP 100 URBAN SINGLES**

**MARCH 9, 1996**

| #1 | All I Need (Glas/MCA 55138) | Jesse Powell | 51 | 4 |
| #2 | You Remind Me of Something (Live 01241) | R. Kelly | 39 | 17 |
| #3 | Fantasy (Columbia 7328) | Mariah Carey | 43 | 24 |
| #4 | Danger (Mercury 7049) | Blahzay Blahzay | 45 | 16 |
| #5 | Cell Therapy (LaFace/Arista 4113) | Goodie Mob | 47 | 18 |
| #6 | Give Me the Night (Stevie Wonder/Atlantic 95930) | Randy Crawford | 40 | 9 |
| #7 | Anything (Ecko/Atlantic 95967) | T. T. & P. | 75 | 20 |
| #8 | Physical Funk (Columbia 157796) | Domino | 57 | 2 |
| #9 | Feels Like the First Time (Atlantic 97024) | Intro | 54 | 3 |
| #10 | Welcome (R/A/Def Jam/Island 71402) | Eric Sermon | 42 | 5 |

**11** Hooked on You (Elektra 61849) | Silk | 48 | 14 |

**12** Space Age (Quake/Relativity 1545) | Eightball & MJG | 56 | 3 |

**13** Gangsta's Paradise (From "Dangerous Minds") (MCA 55104) | Coolio Feat. L.V. | 52 | 26 |

**14** Cruisin' (EMI 53609) | D'Angelo | 36 | 20 |

**15** Ain't No Playa (Chrysalis/EMI 55927) | Rappin' 4-Tay | DEBUT |

**16** Hurricane (Epic 42335) | The Click | 53 | 14 |

**17** Microphone Master (EastWest/Epic 54300) | Das EFX Feat. Mobb Deep | 55 | 4 |

**18** Too Hot (Tommy Boy 713) | Coolio | 58 | 13 |

**19** Nasty Dancer/White Horse (Wap/Big Apple 349) | Kilo | 65 | 4 |

**20** Funkorama (Interscope 59619) | Redman | 61 | 7 |

**21** Ain't Nobody (Virb 7828) | Diana King | 63 | 3 |

**22** Sorry, I (Mercury 2410) | Will Downing | 64 | 15 |

**23** How We Roll (Island 56490) | "The Barrio Boys" | 66 | 8 |

**24** Eastside LB (G Funk/RAL/Island 77912) | Twizz | 69 | 3 |

**25** Unkn0wnwoman (EMI 5617) | Balamadia | 73 | 4 |

**26** Videogram (Music/Atlantic 22917) | A Good Few Men | 72 | 2 |

**27** The Conscious Daughters | 72 | 2 |

**28** Real Live Sh*t (Big Beat/Atlantic 88113) | Real Live Feat. K-Def & Larry-o | 71 | 2 |

**29** Like Marvin Gaye Said (What's Going On) (Chrysalis/EMI 55944) | Speech | 68 | 9 |

**30** Just Take Me Now (Ruthless/Relativity 5532) | Eazy-E | 59 | 9 |

**31** Wings of the Morning (Atlantic 77919) | Capleton | 70 | 17 |

**32** Keep It Real (Rowdy/Atlantic 5506) | Jamal | DEBUT |

**33** Coolio High (Profile 5449) | Camp Lo | 74 | 4 |

**34** What's Your Name (Warner Bros. 70721) | Kenneth Magram | 75 | 2 |

**35** Baby, Baby, Baby (Underworld/Island 54468) | Jesse | 80 | 3 |

**36** Sexy (Blue Thumb/GRP 3071) | Maysa | 76 | 4 |

**37** Your Heart's in Good Hands (MCA 55142) | Ai Green | 77 | 6 |

**38** East '99 (Ruthless/Relativity 5532) | Bone Thugs-N-Harmony | 78 | 11 |

**39** Woo-Hah! Got You All in Check (Elektra 60050) | Busta Rhymes | DEBUT |

**40** I Remember (Motown 80940) | Boyz II Men | 81 | 14 |

**41** 'Cmon 'N Ride it (The Train) (Big Beat/Atlantic 55053) | Quad City DJ'S | DEBUT |

**42** Funny How Time Flies (Atlantic 87003) | Intro | 83 | 18 |

**43** Throw Your Hands Up (Gangsta's Paradise) (Tommy Boy 7099) | L.V. | 62 | 13 |

**44** Get You Free (Davinci Productions 12308) | Planet Soul | 90 | 2 |

**45** Broken Language/Hustlin' (Profile 5440) | Smoothie Da Hustler | 86 | 7 |

**46** I Refuse to Be Lonely (Zoo 4283) | Phyllis Hyman | 85 | 13 |

**47** Move Ya Body (Big Beat/Atlantic 55010) | Mad Skillz | 98 | 5 |

**48** Love of Mine (Capitol 55441) | Earth Gyriz | 92 | 8 |

**49** Soul Food (LaFace/Atlantic 21447) | Earth Mob | 92 | 12 |

**50** Fast Life (Cold Chillin'/Epic Street/Atlantic 78081) | Kool G Rap | 89 | 12 |

**51** Gimme Yours (EMI 55512) | AZ | 82 | 6 |

**52** Look What You've Done (Columbia 77900) | Asante | 84 | 21 |

**53** I Need You Tonight (Big Beat/Atlantic 88097) | Junior M.F.I.A. Feat. Aaliyah | 95 | 16 |

**54** I Want You Back (Interscope 50283) | Pure Soul | 93 | 10 |

**55** Here I Heny (Rip 9923) | 96 South | 79 | 4 |

**56** Already Missing You (Eazy-E & Gerald & Eddie Love, Sr.) | 49 | 22 |

**57** BrokenHearted (Atlantic 5076) | Brandy | 60 | 27 |

**58** The Riddler (From "Batman Forever") (Atlantic 97010) | Method Man | 96 | 14 |

**59** What's Up Star? (From "The Show") (Atlantic 7432) | Suga | 99 | 12 |

**60** Don't Waste My Time (Mecca Don/Epic 64300) | Sa-Deuce | 48 | 2 |
BLAKE SINGLES INDEX

CURRENCE: Greatest Hits (Pure 2250-2) Producers: Various

The master of the European disco dance delight is back with this xerox of collection that serves up all the great dance tracks that in the last '70s and early '80s made club-goers run to the dance floors like lunatics to the shrine. This key to Cerrone's discography this release is one of the high gloss orchestrations that dominated most of that material. Here material is given a '70s touch through remixes done by some of today's most accomplished producers; David Morales, Summer, Juston Robertson and James Reynolds. While adding a contemporary flavor to Cerrone's mix, they don't overshadow the overall mastery and craftsmanship of this talented legendary musician, Standout tracks: “Give Me Love,” “Supernature,” “I'm Not Sleeping,” and “Love and Be Loved.” (GR)

PHAT BLUNTS: Rap Under The Influence (Priority P2-53782) Producers: Various

From the label that took gangsta rap to a national level, Priority has released a new compilation about illegal narcotics. This compilation contains music of all the time best weed, crack and drug selling songs ever made. It would have been perfect if it also included “White Lines,” but nonetheless, it is still packed with tunes of the musical sound. The album includes tracks like: “Dopeman,” by N.W.A., “City Of Dope,” by Too Short, “Cheeba Cheeba” by Tone Loc, “Illegal Business,” by Boogie Down Productions and others. A special favorite on the album is the Dr. Dre. track featuring Ruge, Dogg tags and Kurupt called “Puffin Blunts,” and “Puffin Puffin.” This is definitely a collector’s item. So you may want to get your hands on these albums as soon as you can, however, make sure you look over the selection for the right D.E.A. before you buy one. (MH)

TOTAL: Total (Arista 73006-2) Producers: Various

This delicious intro’s debut album is full of provocative mid-tempo dance tracks that will set for sure the crowd moving and grooving. The producers on this album do a good job of providing the ladies with material that aptly showcases each singer’s talents. The songs are well constructed with excellent lyrical content and the group is well backed by a winning production team which includes Raphael Saadiq, Vincent Herbert and, of course, Sean "Puffy" Combs. Overall this is a good debut project that should satisfy a number of listeners. Expect urban formats across the board to take a hit off of this one. Standout tracks: “Do You Know,” “Kissin You,” “Love Is All We Need,” “When Boy Meets Girl.” (GR)

RAY CHARLES: Strong Love Affair (Quest 9 46107-2) Producers: Ray Charles and Jean-Pierre Grosz

The legendary one is back with a new collection of songs that leave little doubt as to why he is considered one of the high priests of modern day soul/pop. Very little can be said about the man that hasn’t already been written or uttered. Charles has the ability to deliver with an outstanding vocal that is very well suited to the dance floor and the ball. Expect this one to perform well on A/C and selected top 40 and urban formats. Standout tracks: “She Wants To Do Is Love Me,” “Say No More,” “Strong Love Affair,” and “If You Give Me Your Heart.” (GR)
URBAN

TOP 75 R&B ALBUMS

CASH BOX • MARCH 9, 1996

1. ALL EYES ON ME (Debut Row/Interscope 242604) 2Pac 1 2
2. WAITING TO EXHALE (Arista 18796) Soundtrack 2 12
3. THE SCORE (Ruffhouse/Columbia 67147) Fugees 52 2
4. BROWN SUGAR (EMI 233926) D'Angelo 33 5
5. R. KELLY (Jive 41579) R. Kelly 3 12
6. TOTAL (Jive 73060) Total 51 2

STRIFF OFF THE STREET OF MUTHAPHUCKIN COOL (Ruthless / Relativity 5504) 4 4
8. YOUNG, RICH AND DANGEROUS (Ruffhouse / Columbia / 67441) Kris Kross 8 7
9. CODY (Sony / Columbia 67800) Mariah Carey 9 8
10. SOLO (Perspective 9017) Solo 6 22
11. DON'T BE A MENACE TO SOUTH CENTRAL (Def Jam 25410) Soundtrack 7 7
12. DOGG FOOD (Death Row / Interscope / Priority 50546) Tha Dogg Pound 10 12
13. Q'S JOKK JOINT (Quest 45755) Quincy Jones 11 13
14. CONSPIRACY (Def / Epic / Big Beat AG 93614) Junior M.A.F.I.A. 24 1
15. FROM WHERE (777) (Big / Atlantic 50322) Muzik Skillz DEBUT

A THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE (Warn Bros. 40134) Soundtrack 67 2
17. MISS THANG (Row / Interscope 92638) Monica 18 28
18. SOUL FOOD (La Face / Arista 26018) Goodie Mob 14 14
19. FAITH (Arista 73003) Faith Evans 22 23
20. ON TOP OF THE WORLD (Realms Of) 16 15
21. MR. SMITH (RAT / Def Jam 235465) LL Cool J 17 11
22. FUNKMASTER FLEX: 60 MINUTES OF FUNK

Fathers & Sons (Elektra 9816) Eddie & Gerald Levert 20 19
24. WE GOT IT MCA 11365) Immature 23 10
25. OFF THE Hook (Capitol / Columbia 67022) Xscape 13 30
26. ARE YOU REAL? (Infinity / Columbia 67541) Naturals N Harmony 21 18
27. WORDS (La Face / Arista 26222) The Tony Rich Project 25 6
28. SILK (Estate 61648) Silk 26 12
29. SNACK FOODS (Columbia 92638) House Of Cinnamon 7 23
30. HELTER SKELTER (Trent 24676) The D.O.C. 12 5
31. GROOVE THEORY (Epic 53741) Groove Theory 30 16
32. GANGSTA'S PARADISE (Tommy Boy 114) Coolio 32 13
33. SMOOTH (Coconut Groove) 27 23
34. LIQUID SWORDS (Garten 24513) GeniusGZA 31 15
35. I REMEMBER YOU (Def Jam 52629) Brian McKnight 36 7
36. CYPRESS HILL (Intemoles Of Boom) Ruffhouse / Columbia 69511) Cypress Hill 37 15
37. MIND OF MYSTIKAL (Big Boy 41503) Mystikal 28 21
38. MOODS (Lucy / Interscope 52753) Will Downing 40 13
39. THINKING ABOUT YOU (GRP 9826) Jerald Daemyon 41 7
40. DON'T TELL ME ABOUT HIM (Tommy Boy 11040) Phyllis Hyman 35 13
41. ONE LARGE BUILT CUBAN LINX (Def Jam / Interscope 29325) Chef Revell 39 29
42. SOUTH DOWN SOUTH (RPM / Priority 35369) Various Artists 42 2

43. DESIGN OF A DECADE 1986/1996

ASL 54039) Janet Jackson 43 17
45. ASL 54039) Janet Jackson 43 17
46. BRADY (Atlantic 52610) Brandy 44 68
47. GAME RELAXED (Sick Fist / IJave 41906) The Click 21 14
48. DEAD PRESIDENTS (Columbia 52532) Soundtrack 57 27
49. JEALOUS ONE'S ENVY (Relativity 1226) Fat Joe 47 16
50. SOUTHERN GAL (EastWest / EGB 0067) Terris Ellis 33 12
51. GREATEST HITS (Radio Capital 30600) Al Green 48 27
52. RATED G (Island 29068) Top Authority 49 13
53. BEST OF S.O.S. BAND (Tuffy / Motown 50554) S.O.S. Band 20 16
54. ME AGAINST THE WORLD (Interscope 92398) 2Pac 53 48
55. ME AGAINST THE WORLD (Interscope 92398) 2Pac 53 48
56. KIRK FRANKLIN & FAMILY (Kirk Franklin & Family 32563) Kirk Franklin & Family 62 60
57. 1990 SICK (Jet 41832) Splice 1 34 10
58. LABRACALIFORNIA (Def Jive / Interscope 35102) The Pharcyde 54 12
59. RATED G (Rap / A Lot 40756) 5th Ward Boyz 55 6
60. NEW LIFE (Atlantic 52602) Intro 65 15
61. DEAD PRESIDENTS (Columbia 52532) Soundtrack 57 27
62. THE REMIX COLLECTION (Motown 536554) Boyz II Men 60 13
63. ETERNAL E (Priority 50544) Eazy E 61 10
64. LIVIN' PROOF (Ruffhouse / Interscope 524079) Group Home 63 11
65. DOE OR DIE (EMI 32625) AZ 65 18
66. DANGEROUS MINDS (MCA 11228) Soundtrack 74 28
67. SMOOTH GROOVES: A SENSUAL COLLECTION: V.

ASL 54039) Janet Jackson 43 17
68. FRIDAY (Priority 53569) Soundtrack 66 45
69. TEMPOLOGY (The Right Stuff / Interscope 35585) Various Artists 46 4
70. TRUE (Priority 52983) Tru 70 31
71. ENTER THE WU-TANG (36 CHAMBERS) (Interscope / RCA 60393) Wu-Tang Clan 71 88
72. DONT TRY THIS AT HOME (Dangerous Music / Interscope 45755) Dangerous Crew 45 11
73. THE SHOW (Cris / Interscope 52902) Soundtrack 72 25
74. ALL WE GOT ITZ US (UMR / Island 529065) Onyx 69 15
75. 5 4 6 (Epic 57608) Kool G Rap 58 19

THE RHYTHM

By Gil L. Robertson IV

WARNER BROS. recording artist Somethin'. For The People performed at the celebration of the 100th episode of Martin, held recently in Los Angeles. The group, which performed its chart-climbing debut single "You Want This Party Started," is also featured on the soundtrack to A Thin Line Between Love & Hate, the movie starring and directed by Martin Lawrence. Pictured (l-r): Cat Daddy (SFF), Martin Lawrence, (partially hidden) Sauce (SFF), and Fuzzy (SFF).

THE 27TH ANNUAL IMAGE AWARDS: Nominees for the 27th Annual NAACP Image Awards recently took place in Los Angeles. Nominees were picked in 44 categories, with 11 in music. At five, Whitney Houston received the most nominations, followed by D'Angelo, Michael Jackson, Boyz II Men, Brandi, Kirk Franklin, Quincy Jones, CeCe Winans, Coolio, Hootie and the Blowfish, LL Cool J, Mariah Carey and Vanessa Williams. The Atlantic label, garnered the most nominations with six. The award winners will be announced in April and will be televised later in the Spring.

DIS N' DAT: By the time you've read this, the Hughes Bros.' Underworld Records will have signed a distribution deal with Interscope. Hopefully, this new association will allow the phenomenally creative team at Underworld to finally shine... Motown Records gave a kick-ass party in honor of mega-star Stevie Wonder, at Raleigh Studios in Hollywood. The party was packed with an array of dignitaries from the world of music, television, film and sports, all of whom had a ball mining on foods from around the world and listening to entertainment provided by D'Angelo, Marva Hicks, Mary J. Blige, Johnny Gil, Jon Secada, Brandi, Michael McKnight, Take 6, and of course, the man himself, Stevie Wonder... Congratulations go out to Sway and King Tech, hosts of The Wake-Up Show, which airs on KFOG, Los Angeles, KMEI, San Francisco and WEJZ, Chicago for their recent honors by The Gavin Report, Urban Network and RapSheet. Urban/crossover quintet Men of Vision has signed with Michael Jackson's MJJ Music. The group's first single and video, "House Keeper," will be released in March while the group's eponymous album will follow in May... Anna Lennox and Seal brought the house down with their recent performance at the Grammy Awards Show. The two performed a special tribute to Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner Marvin Gaye.

Columbia recording group Assante's recently stopped by P.S. 30 in Harlem for a special performance of their new single "All About You," from the debut album, Assante's Mode. The group also spoke to an assembly of fourth, fifth and sixth graders at the school about non-violence and their participation in the Million Man March.
THE RHyme

Platinum rap group Onyx, as managers, have signed rap group, All City, to Mercury Records. All City will be releasing its debut single, "Metro Team," next month with the album to follow in early summer. Pictured (l-r): Sticky Fingaz (Onyx), Emmit Henry, J. Mega (All City), Greg Valentine (All City), Sonee Seезa (Onyx).

SNOOP DOG TO DO MTV: Music Television will debut an exclusive 30-minute interview with Calvin Broadus aka Snoop Doggy Dogg following the artist's acquittal of murder charges in the 1993 slaying of Philip Woldemarian. This marks Snoop's first sit-down interview since the verdict. Snoop Raw: Part II will debut on MTV on Wednesday, March 6 at 9:30 pm (ET/PT). The program will repeat Sunday, March 10 at 11:00 am and 7:30 pm (ET/PT). Snoop is expected to talk candidly with MTV News about his reaction to the verdict, which was read by the Los Angeles jury two weeks ago. He also discusses what his life has been like since the first trial hearings began over two years ago, the current state of his musical career, and his future personal and professional plans in the wake of his acquittal. MTV aired its first 30-minute interview with Snoop Dogg, called Snoop Raw in November of 1995. The first program was a compilation of interviews conducted with Snoop over a three-year period surrounding the murder charges.

STAY IN SCHOOL WITH M.C. QUAKE: His recording artist M.C. Quake has initiated a Stay In School campaign. The rapper, whose single, "Drop Top Caddy," was just released, will tour Los Angeles area high schools from the month of February through May 27. To date Blair, John Muir, Wilson, Marshall, Fremont, Duke Ellington and Crenshaw high schools are participating. He will speak with students, perform, sign autographs and give away promotional items. A scholarship award will be given away to a high school senior at a concert the rapper will do at World On Wheels. Contestants will be required to write a 500 word essay on What You Plan To Do After College or Write About A Record Company Executive. For more information contact Ias Records, Inc., P.O. Box 45744, Los Angeles, California 90045.

Urban Single Reviews

By Michael Hill

■ MR. X: "One Time At The Door" (Jung-5001-2)

Mr. X is one of those New Jack singers whose music blends heavy street themes with R&B vocals. The problem here is that both this track and his vocals are mediocre. However, with a good remix and some good radio and club support this track could be a hit. The other snippets on this album show that Mr. X does have the ability to have a very satisfying '96.

■ MACK DA MANIAC: "What Goes Up" (Select PRC53)

This track is New York hip-hop at its best. The groove is nacked with a strong drum line and an added sample to fatten it up. THIS IS A PARTY TRACK!!! The surprise cameo from Chubb Rock adds to both this single's appeal and chart-topping potential.

■ YOUNG MURDER SQUAD/SH'KILLA: "How We Living'/1-800 Got Ya M'n" (GWK 4PRO30030)

Together these two singles blend West Coast grooves with a tight lyrical flow. The A-side of the single is just okay, although it may create a little noise for the group. Side B, Sh'Killa's track, is more up to par in the modern day scheme of things. The flow here is right and the track is smooth. Expect this single to make this act one of the premiere groups for this new label.
REVIEWs By Héctor Reséndez

RMm Tropical Tribute to the Beatles: RMM Tropical Tribute To The Beatles (RMM, 2011) Producer: Oscar Gomez. TROPICAL.SALSA.

After reading RMM’s Ralph Mercado’s liner notes, one can better understand his long-held theory that Latin rhythms greatly influenced the music of the Beatles. Would you believe that one of their first audition tapes was a rendition of ‘‘Beame Mucho!’’ Unlike Nat ‘‘King’’ Cole, however, the Beatles never recorded an all-Latin album. Maybe if the Fab Four had had the chance, it would’ve sounded very similar to RMM’s present Beatles homage. What’s undisputable, however, are the 13 numbers offered on what will be Beatlemania’s ultimate tribute of all time. The first promo single is the all-star bilingual jam on ‘‘Come Together’’ (Varios Juntos), spotlighting Salsa icons Celia Cruz, Cheo Feliciano, and Tito Puente as well as pleasantly surprising noobses by younger upstarts like Jesus Enriquez, Guiancole, Miles Pena, and Manny Manuel. Retailers: place this in your pop-rock bins; give Salsa a chance.

MANUEL ASCANIO: Serenata con Mariachi (MP, 6.176) Producer: Juan Gonzalez Peruca. MEXICAN-REGIONAL.

His first hit was Lolita de la Colina’s ‘‘Dos Americas’’. Manuel Ascanio’s romantic-style led to other gems in his singing career. The album ‘‘Serenata con Mariachi’’ marks Ascanio’s debut recording with the Miami-based MP label. Characterized by boleros and ballads, like his current single, ‘‘Madragal’’, Ascanio easily sings covers as he does contemporary hits like ‘‘Con Los Ajos Que Me Quedan’’ by Gloria Estefan. The era of the ‘‘Golden Ballad’’ continues to flourish with artists like Ascanio.


La Diferencia’s debut album, released in 1995, caused a furor within the Latin music industry. Not only was the Platinum-selling group nominated for a Grammy Award, but they were also recipients of numerous accolades. Their second album might prove a repeat winner. Led by their vocalist, Ricardo Castillo, La Diferencia displays more of what got them where they’re at: unsullered yet highly creative and diversified music. La Diferencia’s strength comes naturally because of the group’s various and colorful backgrounds. Viva la diferenzia!

PICK OF THE WEEK

LA MAFIA: Un Milion De Rosas (Sony Discos, 81722) Producer: Mando Lichtenberger, Jr. Tejano-POP-REGIONAL.

Un Milion De Rosas is the Houston-based group, La Mafias, latest album. The mega-Latin pop band’s five members have been dominating the Latin music chart album after album since 1986. For two consecutive years, their albums and videos were nominated for Grammys. With this new album, La Mafias hopes to continue appealing to a broader audience. With the duet, ‘‘Mujeres Que Eñas,’’ with Salsa icon, Marc Anthony, and the group’s lead singer, Oscar de la Rosa, it might be hard to say who’s helping who sell records. Whether La Mafia wins a Grammy this year or not, however, they are a group to be reckoned with for the next ten years.

News From U.S. & Latin America

By Hector Reséndez

IGLESIAS TAKES A HIGHER ROAD: The album, La Carreta, is Julio Iglesias’ latest album. It also happens to be his 70th. The Spanish crooner has sold more than 200 million albums in the almost three decades of his incredible career. More than 1,500 Gold and Platinum records worldwide have been awarded to the Grammy-winning singer. A final mind-boggling statistic: Iglesias has performed in more than 3,080 concerts and has appeared on more than 1,000 TV shows in 450 cities and 75 countries.

In a recent phone interview, Iglesias touched briefly on what it means to be a super mega-star, “An artist should never be content with his or her last achievement,” Iglesias remarked. “Yes, I will say that my last album is one of my best. That is, until the next one, which will hopefully be as good or better as my last one. ‘‘Considering that Iglesias’ fame as a romantic balladeer is legendary among his fans worldwide, he emphasized that he wanted his current album to reflect other aspects of his personality. ‘‘La Carreta, for example, contains elements of American country music, but is very appealing to practically anyone,’’ said Iglesias. “The album has something for everyone, whether it’s rumba flamenco, salsa, country, rock or pop. I want anyone who listens to my music to feel inspired by what they hear. There’s the magic, the connection between the singer and those who he sings to.”

As for future projects, Iglesias mentioned a compilation album of hits and a greatest hits compilation that yet,” he said. “I would like very much to produce such an album.” A world-wide network of fans couldn’t agree more.

SALSA IN CHILE: At the 37th Annual Festival Internacional de la Canción de Viña del Mar (International Song Festival) in Chile, performing for an audience consisting of more than 50 countries and 25,000 spectators, Dominican singer, Mickey Taveras, stole the show. Taveras, who is a recording artist for the Miami-based Karen Records, rendered his interpretation of his own Salsa composition “Me Gusta.” The young artist received the nod as Best Performer at the prestigious festival. The song is from Taveras’ latest album, Lacharé which was recorded at the 40 40 Studio in New York. The singer-actor produced the album with arrangements by Tommy Villarini, Pengibien Sang and Cuto Soto.

The president of Chile, Eduardo Frei, publicly acknowledged Taveras as he was introduced to the country in a radio interview. A major promotional and concert tour is being launched this week. Taveras has already been making waves throughout Latin America. At the end of February until March 8, the artist will visit Venezuela to film a video clip. A major media promotion of his current album is also planned while in Caracas. By mid-March (11-15), Taveras’ US tour will ensue. First stop will be Miami then Tampa and Orlando. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia are to follow on March 18-22. At the end of March, Taveras will visit Puerto Rico. He plans on visiting Columbus at the start of April with other scheduled stops in Central America, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. An international tour is set for May 1st through September.

SONGWRITERS WORKSHOP SLATED FOR MARCH: The American Latin Music Association (ALMA), Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI), The Songwriters Guild of America (SIGA) and the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS) are co-sponsoring, for the first time, a series of Latin informative seminars designed to give songwriters, musicians and performers an inside look into the Latin entertainment business. The seminars will be presented in English and Spanish and will feature special industry speakers. The first workshop, “Knowing Your Rights As A Songwriter” (How and Where the Dollars Come From), will take place on Wednesday, March 20th, 1996, from 7 pm to 9 pm at the offices of BMI at 320 West 57th Street, 3rd floor, in New York City. For information about this event will be Diane Almodovar of BMI, George Wurtzberg of SAGA and Jon Marcus of NARAS. Admission is free, but seating is limited and reservations should be made in advance by calling Maria Espinal at the Songwriters Guild at 212/667-7603.
COLD FRONT, A LABEL DISTRIBUTED THROUGH K-tel International, has just released more compilations that are bound to keep your body moving. Look for Club Mix '96, Hit Mix '96, Club Music's Greatest Hits and Club Mix '95 - Volume 2. Each disc features between 10 and 13 tunes, all of which have received excessive spins at dance clubs nationwide. For more information call K-tel at (800) 328-6640. ..The Philco Records tag, through Rounder Records has announced the release of 3 titles from Jean Redpath. Now in-store are The Songs Of Robert Burns - Volumes 1 & 2, The Songs Of Robert Burns - Volumes 3 & 4 and The Songs Of Robert Burns - Volumes 5 & 6. Also on release at Philo is Slightly Haunted from folk artist Lynn Miles.

VICEROY ENTERTAINMENT GROUP has just declared the launch of Viceroys, a customized label that will primarily focus on American roots and Blues music. Dave Perverted, known for his work in '70s band Foghat and more recent outfit Savoy Brown, has been appointed the label's spokesperson due to his musical roots being deeply set in the Blues. Viceroys plans to release discs from Eta James' guitarist Bobby Murray, Muddy Waters' harp player/guitarist Paul Oscher and talented guitarist Harvey Mandel in the near future. The Viceroys label now joins the likes of Viceroys Music, Viceroys Vintage, Viceroys Architect, Domino Records and Viceroys Video (all distributed through AEC/INDI in the U.S.) in the always growing Viceroys Entertainment Group.. On March 12, Minneapolis, MN-based indie label October Records will release Everything, I Bet You, the second record from moody-rock quartet The Honeymuds. The band's eponymous debut was present on many rock critics top 10 lists for 1995 and Everything, I Bet You seems capable of following in the debut's footsteps. October Records product can be obtained through Alternative Distribution Alliance.

CALIFORNIA-BASED RHINO RECORDS has announced the release of Box This Box Or We'll Shoot This Dog: The Best Of The National Lampoon Radio Show. This set of three CD's (or three cassettes) contains 139 amusing excerpts from such comic greats as John Belushi, Chevy Chase, Gilda Radner and Bill Murray. Also recently released by Rhino is Black Entertainment Television's 15th Anniversary Music Celebration. This two-volume collection, available on cassette and CD, is made up of three dozen tracks and commemorates the success of the first black-owned national cable network. As it those releases weren't enough, look for People Get Ready! The Curtis Mayfield Story, a three-volume box set that is made up of more than 30 classic Mayfield tunes and Give Your Body Up: Club Classics & House Foundations, another new three-volume collection. In late March Rhino plans to terrify music buyers by simply reminding them of the almost extinct Heavy Metal genre. Look for yet another three-volume series entitled Youth Gone Wild: Heavy Metal Hits Of The '80s. Featured on each of one of the trio are 14 tracks (12 make up the cassette version) from such dated bands as Ratt, Twisted Sister, Quiet Riot and Poison. For more information on these and other Rhino product call Rhino Mail Order at (800) 432-0020.

ON FEBRUARY 27TH, KING BISCUIT FLOWER HOUR RECORDS, INC. released 12 classic digitally re-mixed and re-mastered live albums in their original, complete and unedited versions. Many music lovers remember the debut of The King Biscuit Flower Hour in 1973 and simply by broadcasting live rock n' roll performances on a weekly basis for over 22 years, it soon became a much appreciated radio tradition. Currently available on CD only are live releases from such great acts as Deep Purple, The Fixx, America, Triumph, 10CC, Kingfish with Bob Weir and Humble Pie among others. Many of the tracks featured on these "new" classics haven't been attainable before and select "lost" Biscuit shows have been rediscovered. Before the end of 1996 the King Biscuit Flower Hour Records plans to put out two dozen live albums. Also owned by the King Biscuit Entertainment Group is Manooukian Records, a label that was created to develop aspiring acts. Bands that presently call Manooukian home, include Voivod, Beladonna, Dessa, Strange and Groovezilla.

INDIE EXECs ON THE MOVE

- New York-based Grass Records has announced several new appointments. The label, currently owned by Alan Metzler has tagged former S. vp of field marketing for Rhino, Bob Calhoun to exec. vp for Grass. Add to that, from EMI/R, Shanna Fischer, has been named vp of promotion. Former Capitol Records publicity director Dominique Lemmopera has been tagged vp media and artist relations. Camille Scarr, Grass Records founder, will remain with the label as the A&R chief. Karsten Witt has been named president of Deutsche Gramaphon in Hamburg, Germany. Prior to his appointment, Witt worked as the managing director of the Vienna Konzerthaus. LaFace Records in Atlanta, Georgia has upped Dorsey James to COO/GM. James recently held the title of CFO. Derek Alpert was recently named vp of motion picture music for Los Angeles-based company Rondon Music International, Inc. Alpert, who previously worked in the production and distribution area at A&M Records, joined Rondon in 1981 to oversee the company's printed music department. Ken Guilec has been upped to vp of sales at Relativity Records. Guilec previously worked at the company's Dallas office as the sales manager and also held the title national director of product management. Guilec will continue to be based at Relativity's New York headquarters. RED Distribution in New York has promoted Lou Tatulli to the position of national director of sales. Prior to his upping, Tatulli worked at RED's Northeast regional sales manager. Peermusic in New York has upped Manny Mosquera to vp of finance as well as upping Brooke Wiston to the controller position. Mosquera previously held the controller title and Wiston formerly worked as the assistant controller. Also at peermusic in New York Claire Johnston has been named general manager of the company's copyright department. Johnston has been with peermusic since 1987, at that time working as the personal assistant to CEO Ralph Peer, II from the company's U.K. office. Eric Levine recently joined the Metropolitan Entertainment Group as vp of operations. Prior to Levine's arrival at Metro he was vp of the exec. vp/GM of Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab in California. Pandisc/Streetbeat Records has upped Nat Riew to the position of label vp. Riew previously worked as the company's general manager. Claudia Stewart Navarro has been appointed national distributor of promotion for Shanachie Entertainment. Navarro previously held the same position at Discovery Records. Rip-It Records has named radio personality Apollo to the position of Southwest regional director and national mix show director. In addition to Apollo's work at Arista Records, he also previously held posts at such stations as WHIM, 102 JAMZ in Orlando, WJLB/WXMD in Detroit and KIDS 102 in Charlotte, NC. Westwood One Entertainment has named Linda Southern account executive for the company's Los Angeles sales office. Southern formerly worked as the director of media field marketing for Whereshow Entertainment. In related news, Westwood One Radio Networks has named Deborah Lung sales manager for the Southwest/Southeast regions. Lung, who will be based in the company's Dallas, Texas office, previously worked as the regional manager/director of sales for Torbet Radio Group. Also Rosemary Anselmo has been appointed account executive for the company's New York sales office. Prior to Anselmo's work with Westwood One she held the vice-president sales post at Major Market Radio. Tracey New has been named national manager of media relations at Rhino Records. BaySide Distribution has appointed McVrin Jahn to the position of classical coordinator. Prior to Jahn's post he previously served as the Regional Director for AEG唱片 in Berkeley, CA as the classical manager. Jim Gray has been named West Coast sales director for M.S. Distributing and will be based in Richmond, CA, just outside the San Francisco Bay Area.
### ONE STOP

#### SINGLES CHART

| TRACK | ARTIST | LABEL | SINGLES CHART
|-------|--------|-------|------------------
| Track 1 | Artist 1 | Label 1 | Chart Position 1
| Track 2 | Artist 2 | Label 2 | Chart Position 2
| Track 3 | Artist 3 | Label 3 | Chart Position 3
| Track 4 | Artist 4 | Label 4 | Chart Position 4
| Track 5 | Artist 5 | Label 5 | Chart Position 5

**Notes:**
- Distribution
- Available
- Last Year's Sales
- Artists
- The Chart
- Top 20
- Top 25
- Top 30
- Top 40
- Top 50

__Table Data__

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<th>Label</th>
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| Track 1 | Artist 1 | Label 1 | Chart Position 1
| Track 2 | Artist 2 | Label 2 | Chart Position 2
| Track 3 | Artist 3 | Label 3 | Chart Position 3
| Track 4 | Artist 4 | Label 4 | Chart Position 4
| Track 5 | Artist 5 | Label 5 | Chart Position 5

**Contact:**
- Tel: 212.787.5410
- Email: info@oneshop.com

**Additional Information:**
- Social Media
- Website
- Press Kit
- Media Kit

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__Aside Notes__

- Distribution
- Available
- Last Year's Sales
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- The Chart
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- Top 30
- Top 40
- Top 50
## ONE STOP ALBUMS CHART

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(The chart is too large to fully transcribe here. It lists albums with their respective rankings, titles, record labels, and artists. The chart is designed to provide a comprehensive view of the most popular albums at the time of publication.)

### Indie Album Reviews

**By Karen Sullivan**

- **Z: Music For Per (Zappas, ZAPP2)**

The Zappa family is no stranger to the music industry. In addition to the countless works that have garnered the band's fame and success, the Zappas have released several albums that continue to receive critical acclaim. One such album is *Z: Music For Per*, which was released in 1982. This album features a unique blend of rock, jazz, and classical music, and is considered a masterpiece by many fans of the band. The album includes a variety of tracks, each with its own distinctive sound and style. Whether you're a fan of Zappa's experimental approach to music or simply looking for something new to add to your collection, *Z: Music For Per* is definitely worth a listen. You can find it on most major music streaming platforms or purchase it on CD or vinyl for a truly immersive listening experience.
PRAVDA RECORDS, INC. in Chicago, Ill has just announced two very different, yet both ultra interesting discs. Currently in stores is Not A Food the fifth full-length release by Cheer-Accident and soon to be in stores will be John Fogerty: Wrote A Song For Everyone, a compilation cover album that pays tribute to "the man behind Creedence Clearwater Revival." Pravda Records product can be obtained through such distributors as Caroline, Cargo, Dutch East, Feedback, Get Hip, Rotz and TCI...Damian Music, a label distributed nationally through the Navarre Corporation, plans to release bonus CD-ROM screen savers and games on the compact disc versions of their upcoming releases. Look for exclusive screen savers on the CD versions of The Dance Box - Volume 2, a compilation of dance music, and Larry Tagg's With A Skeleton Crew. Featured on the collections Generation X, made up of tracks from alternative bands, and The Black And The Brown Side—Mad Wax— Volume 1 consisting of rap and Latino artists, look for CD-ROM games. The Black And The Brown Side... includes three games, providing an incredibly irresistible incentive... Now available on Jazz Inspiration Records is Bill: Please by Lorraine Lofsky and Stan Samole's Childish Dreams. The two aforementioned releases, as well as all Jazz Inspiration Records' product is available through the Allegro Corporation...

MIINTY FRESH, A CHICAGO-BASED LABEL has just announced it's exclusive distribution agreement with Port Washington, NY company Koch International. The three year old label's first release through Koch is Life by Swedish band The Cardigans. Jim Powers, the founder of Minty Fresh, previously worked as an A&R representative for BMG and started his label by releasing plenty of hip 7 inch singles by such trend-setters as Love Jones, Liz Phair and Veruca Salt. In March look for the self-titled debut album by Somerville, MA-based trio Papas Fritas... Speaking of Koch International, the corporation recently held their annual sales meeting in Hultanuco, Mexico. A crew of over 100 people, made up of Koch sales representatives and staff employees from the 35 labels they distribute, met one-on-one and swapped thoughts and opinions. In addition to the newly-acquired distribution of Minty Fresh, Koch also handles product sales for such labels as Imago, Thirsty Ear, Tim/Kerr, Righteous Babe, Bar/None, Cooking Vinyl, Razor & Tie. Sector 2. 2.13.61 and Silva among other respected companies... Cash Box Retail Guide panel member Rock Bottom, Inc. is excited about the current release from Landslide recording act the Cigar Store Indians. This quartet from Georgia mix rockabilly with Southern boogie and come up with a fierce country-rock sound with lots of punch.

EARTH MUSIC, A DIVISION OF CARGO RECORDS is on the verge of releasing Straight Outta Marysville from antifolk storyteller Cindy Lee Berryhill. The label also plans to put out Pony and EP from Berryhill and don't be surprised if you see Memoirs Of A Female Messiah, Berryhill's first published novel, creeping up the N.Y. Times best-seller list towards the end of the year... On the Headhunter side of Cargo Records, comes GYAX! from four piece band Pitchblende. This second release for the quartet, named after the inventor of Dungeons And Dragons, Gary Gygax, validates the fact that the band is still together and making good ole' rock music... Remember the shocking Motley Crue tune "Shout At The Devil?" Well, if you need to refresh your memory, check out Download This from Triple X recording act Cradle Of Thorns. The new offering from C.O.T. features a wonderful interpretation of a song that could easily be tagged the theme song of 80's glam rock. Also from Triple X is Master Frequency And His Deepness by Tim Harrington. You may remember Harrington by his work with the original Masters Of Reality... CM Records, a label based in Seattle, WA, has made a variety of discs recently available. The Last Happy Band? by Just Plain Bill, Hydropods' Racecourse Exit and The Side Effects Of Thinking also with the self-titled debut album from Moralf Cruc..

PANSY DIVISION AND THE SMUGGLERS have just released their current albums through Lookout Records. Wish I'd Taken Pictures from Pansy Division is the band's fourth record and marks the debut of their permanent drummer Dustin Donaldson. Vancouver band The Smugglers latest accomplishment, Selling The Sizzle, just happens to be the first co-released album for Canada's Mint label and USA's infamous Lookout Records... The Rounder Records Group has a collection of tunes for every music lover. Country/Western & Old-Time music fans, check out Rounder's releases Sweet Harmony from The Whistlin' Brothers or two separate collections, The American Eagles - Volume 1 and Don't Fence Me In: Western Music's early Golden Era. For those who crave the Blues, look for Black Top Records discs Freedie King's Live At The Electric Ballroom and Jesse Thomas' Lookin' For That Women. World Music lovers, keep an eye out for Tides And Sand by Sisi Chen, As Quick As Fire from Knat Buen and Sonas Bonitas/We Are Puerto Rico by Los Pleneros De La 21. All three worldly tales are available through the Henry Street label. Never fear Folk fans, also available on the Vestapol label are Pierre Bensusan's In Concert, John Renucorn's In Concert - 1995 and Robin Williamson's In Concert And finally through the Upstart imprint comes It's A Hog Groove! from the Tailgaters, Music For Lovers by Teisco Del Rey and Laika & The Cosmonaut's Zero Gravity...

ALBUM REVIEWS (Continued from page 7)

The Honeydogs album, the band's sound is full of classic melodies and warm, mature vocals. Everything, I Bet You is made up of 11 blended tunes with songs like "Over You," "Your Blue Door," "Tell Me" and "Busy Man," striking a subtle nerve. This record, as well as the band's self-titled debut, are a must for those who appreciate unpretentious, kicking yet soothing music that isn't clouded by a fictitious image.

PICK OF THE WEEK

GRAVITY KILLS: Gravity Kills (TVT 5910)

Following the placement of Gravity Kills tunes, "Goodbye" and "Guilty," on the motion picture soundtracks to Mortal Kombat and Seven respectively, the four piece band has delivered an aggressive full-length debut.

The album, made up of 11 tunes, including the two tracks that were included on the aforementioned soundtracks, was self-produced by the St. Louis quartet and mixed by the well-known John Fryer (NIN, Stabbing Westward). Prior to the release of Gravity Kills, a very max-sting of its well-received tune "Guilty," featuring nine mixes of that tune as well as two versions of "Goodbye," was made available. Other standout tunes on this release of complex audio and delicate manipulation of conventional and unconventional instruments include "Down," "Enough," "Never" as well as the disc closer "Hold." For a band whose single "Guilty" earned most requested song in its hometown, plans for the group to converge on the rest of the world are now underway.
Voce Unidas: Olympian Effort By Latin Artists

By M.R. Martinez

IN CONCERT WITH albums featuring urban and country artists that are being released in connection with the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta, GA, EMI Latin Records last week announced its entry into the field with 'Voce Unidas,' a solid collection of varied music featuring a remarkable array of talent from the Latin music community. During a crowded press conference of both mainstream and Latin print and electronic press assembled at the Capitol Recording Studios in Hollywood, GA, executives of EMI Records and the Atlanta Olympic Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) introduced the project amid music, a video presentation and a Q&A session with some of the principle artists involved.

Charles Koppleman, chairman/CEO of EMI-Capitol Music Group North America, joined by EMI Latin Records president Jose Behar and Louis Cunningham, vp of marketing for the Atlanta Centennial Olympic Properties, hailed the recording as a tool to spread the global goodwill for which the Olympics stand to those that may not follow sports closely. Behar said, "'Voce Unidas' (which translates to 'United Voices') is not just about an athletic event. It is about world peace and unification—in this case, among the different Latino cultures with nearly every Latin American country represented on the album.'"

The first single from the album is "Puedes Llegar," co-written by superstar Gloria Estefan with Diane Warren with Spanish lyrics by Estefan. Emilio Estefan, Jr. produced the single and was instrumental in the album's development. "Puedes Llegar" features a cornucopia of talent, including Gloria Estefan, Jon Secada, Julio Iglesias, Placido Domingo, Ricky Martin, Patricia Sosa, Roberto Carlos, Alejandro Fernandez and Carlos Vives. The single will be released in March.

During the press conference, EMI Latin recording act the Barrio Boyzz, performed an acapella version of their 'Voce Unidas' entry, "Una Nacion," or "One Nation." Other artists featured on the album include Jose Luis Rodriquez, Pandora, Estela Nazzario, Emilio, Graciela Beltran, Alvaro Torres, Marta Sanchez, Paulina Rubio, Mijares, Thalia, Raul Di Blasio and the late Selena. In addition to Estefan, other producers on the album include K.C. Porter, A.B. Quintanilla (brother of the late Selena) and Christian De Walden.

Joining the Barrio Boyzz at the press conference were the Estefans, Jon Secada, and Emilio, all of whom answered reporters' questions in both English and Spanish. Noting that the project was two years in the making, Behar explained that proceeds from the sale of the album (due in stores in May) will go toward benefiting the games and the Olympic teams in each country where the album is sold. A similar arrangement involves the urban album, that will be released by LaFace Records, and the country album which will be released by MCA Records.

ACOP's Cunningham noted that there will be merchandise created around the album's graphics that will be dubbed "Olympic Music Merchandise."
IT'S THE DAY AFTER and the tremendous talents of The Birdcage have me still laughing. What did ya want? Splishy, splashy, human, touching, hilarity, Right Wing, out there!, family values! The Birdcage has it all.

Elaine May's script, based on the stage play La Cage Aux Folles by Jean Poiret and the subsequent film script by Frances Veber, Edouard Molinaro, Marcella Danon and Poiret, successfully brings the action from the French Riviera to South Beach, Florida, and it glitters.

May's in top creative form with her work here. She picked up an Academy Award for her Heaven Can Wait scripting chores. She's on her way to another nomination, at least.

And directing without a single lost or wasted frame is Mike Nichols. Maybe it was his old partner's script—this is the first time he and May have worked together in these capacities on a film project before and this is a project they'd harbored feelings for for 15 years—or maybe it's as Nichols has said, "We bring out the best in each other." Talk about underentertained here. Wow! Cast? You want to talk talent: Robin Williams and Nathan Lane as the happy homosexual owner-create-force-couple operating the Birdcage drag show in South Beach—springing for complimentary coffee only for a table of Kenedys when Ted's not present—Gene Hackman and Dianne Wiest as a Right Wing conservative GOP Senator and his wife whose daughter, Calista Flockhart wants to marry Williams' son from a one night stand with Christine Baranski. Dan Futterman. And each talent is in Rare form. Start to get the picture? Don't get it, go to it. It has everything Nichols and May wanted to invest it with, in spades.

Is there anyone out there who doesn't know the story? Doubtful, but if you've forgotten it, don't return to the original La Cage for a refresher course. Let Birdcage take you through it without the encumbrance of source recall.

Robin Williams subdues the usual outward Williams energy, letting the character take over; but the digressions is there giving the touching moments of concern a meaningful depth. His Armand character is the solid one and Williams brings total belief to the role. And you can't mention "Armand" without thinking of "Alber," which translates into Natan Lane. Lane and Williams moments together are gems. There's a comedic chemistry between the two of them which makes you look forward to the next scene between the two. Lane's Albert is a showcase role, displaying him as Stage Diva, partner, mom, performer and caregiver. Albert is a part which a performer could take over-the-top, to say the least. Lane takes it to the limit but never without anchoring the performance in humanity. He's excellent.

You want to talk about Advanced Film Acting, take a good look at how much mileage Gene Hackman can get out of a simple line like "I don't understand." Even after watching and admiring his talent for more years than I want to remember, the actor can still astound me. His exit from the Birdcage has the depth to lay you out with laughter. His supportive mate is Dianne Wiest who's well up to the task. Yes, this is a couple, a politico and his wife. She sweeps the bad out the door and with expertise puts the good spin on whatever situation arises. Between these two couples Family Values are displayed and the point made: Family Values are given to any family only through the love and concern of the people involved, and the message comes through loud, clear and touchingly.

Hank Azaria is hilarious with his pratfalls as the houseboy/retard who doesn't like to wear shoes but loves wigs. Christine Baranski as the boy's birth mother manages a slippery situation neatly: mom who hasn't seen her son since birth (it seems) but who steps in to help out and doesn't incur any audience animosity. Dan Futterman and Calista Flockhart are fine as the young couple bringing all these people together.

Executive producers were Neil Machlis and Marcella Danon. Nichols produced.

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Top 15 Weekly Film Grosses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK/TITLE</th>
<th>DISTRIBUTOR</th>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>SCREENS</th>
<th>WKND TOTAL</th>
<th>AVG</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Rumble In The Bronx</td>
<td>New Line</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,736</td>
<td>$9,888,380</td>
<td>$5,679</td>
<td>$9,888,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Broken Arrow</td>
<td>20th Century Fox</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,372</td>
<td>$8,394,896</td>
<td>$3,539</td>
<td>$4,794,896</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Muppet Treasure Island</td>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,089</td>
<td>$6,525,578</td>
<td>$3,124</td>
<td>$18,851,958</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Happy Gilmore</td>
<td>Universal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,025</td>
<td>$6,307,875</td>
<td>$3,115</td>
<td>$18,462,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Mr. Holland's Opus</td>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,599</td>
<td>$5,055,814</td>
<td>$3,162</td>
<td>$16,702,448</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Clue Hall</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,815</td>
<td>$4,364,940</td>
<td>$2,405</td>
<td>$13,831,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Before And After</td>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,313</td>
<td>$4,023,815</td>
<td>$3,065</td>
<td>$12,023,815</td>
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<td>8. Mary Reilly</td>
<td>Tristar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,470</td>
<td>$2,812,620</td>
<td>$1,913</td>
<td>$2,812,620</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Mr. Wrong</td>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,487</td>
<td>$2,784,853</td>
<td>$1,873</td>
<td>$9,652,154</td>
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<td>10. Dead Man Walking</td>
<td>Gramercy</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>$2,298,818</td>
<td>$3,037</td>
<td>$21,210,706</td>
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<td>11. Sense And Sensibility</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,054</td>
<td>$2,204,679</td>
<td>$2,092</td>
<td>$32,305,690</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Black Sheep</td>
<td>Paramount</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,911</td>
<td>$2,004,667</td>
<td>$1,049</td>
<td>$28,406,899</td>
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<td>13. Leaving Las Vegas</td>
<td>MGM/UA</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>$1,900,024</td>
<td>$1,876</td>
<td>$23,176,760</td>
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<td>14. Unforgettable</td>
<td>MGM/UA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,573</td>
<td>$1,442,215</td>
<td>$917</td>
<td>$1,442,215</td>
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<td>15. Beautiful Girls</td>
<td>Miramax</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>$1,210,295</td>
<td>$2,233</td>
<td>$7,976,210</td>
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Domestic box-office, which includes USA and Canada for the weekend of February 23-25, totaled $61,189,469, breaking down to a $2,688 per-screen average off a total of 22,756 screens, giving a combined total of $293,506,642. (Courtesy Entertainment Data, Inc.)
Touchstone’s *Up Close And Personal* Is Solid

By John Gaff

First and foremost *Up Close And Personal* is a love story, and a damned fine one too. It sports a sparkling, multi-layered script by Joan Didion & John Gregory Dunne; a pair of actors in Robert Redford and Michelle Pfeiffer who appear to go even beyond the script: romantic score by Thomas Newman; assured direction by Jon Avnet, and it looks to be one of ’96’s more memorable delights. Memorable enough, I suspect, that it’ll be around this time next year, if you know what I mean.

The story, creditwise, is listed as suggested by the book *Golden Gloves* by Almina Nash, one of the accounts of newswoman Jessica Savitch but it has nothing to do with her. Yes, it’s in the news milieu and Pfeiffer plays a driven woman, but Didion & Dunne, along with Avnet and the actors have gone for the feeling of the trade as a backdrop for the love story. Yes, they present some insights into the operations of that milieu—and if a couple of them pertaining to “anchors” seem fairly cliché it’s because there’s a truth there which can’t be embellished upon or presented subtly because they’re so instantly recognizable on any news channel, any day, any area of the country. What Didion & Dunne have accomplished is present a solid post, the romantic angle, around which swirl strings of truth that brush past your eyes, are noted and then blend into the continued wrapping colors which form a pattern of solidarity. When they’re all anchored down at film’s end you have a beautifully, colorfully wrapped, proudly standing pole everyone concerned with it, even the audience, can take delight in. Didion, Dunne and Avnet appear to know the machinations of local and network news, in front of and behind camera and doors. They have fun with it but they also give it respect, appearing to be saying: everybody’s human, even arrogant asses, and you don’t have to be one of those to love.

Redford appears to be more relaxed and having more fun with a role than he has in a long, long time, and it’s wonderful to watch. You get the feeling he’s glad not to have to worry about anything except carving out a character that he likes. He becomes the person here rather than bending the person to a Redford image. Pfeiffer’s character has the most changes and is actually the central focus of the piece. With two lesser performers that fact would have shown through more but the pair work together so smoothly it’s not immediately noticeable. They work into the work, and that’s terrific to watch. Pfeiffer carries her small town (Reno, NV) ambitious girl through each change with strength and knowledge. She’s absolutely solid.

And you don’t get much more of a super supporting cast than Stockard Channing as a knowledgable, edgy but controlled anchor coming up on that stage of age. Joe Mantegna’s a high-priced talent agent with enough power to pull strings at stations around the country. Kate Nelligan is strong enough of an actress to complete the portrait of a former wife with only sketchy material, simply a few telling lines of dialogue and attitude. Other notable support is given by Glenn Plummer as Pfeiffer’s favorite cameraman; James Rebhorn as a hands-on station manager and Scott Bryne as the pompadoured anchor.

Celine Dion sings “Because You Loved Me,” over closing credits, warm love song written by Diane Warren and produced by David Foster.

Avnet, David Nickay and Jordan Kerner produced; Ed Hookstraten and John Foreman executive produced.

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**Grammy (Continued from page 3)**

Performance and in a big surprise, the prolific Joni Mitchell won the Best Pop Album honor.

Performance wise, the evening provided some some stellar presentations. Although nominated for six Grammys, but receiving none last Wednesday, Mariah Carey performed with Boys II Men on their platinum hit “One Sweet Day.” Whitney Houston, did double duty performing her new hit single “Count on Me” with CeCe Winans, and a stirring gospel song serenaded with the great Shirley Caesar. T.G.I performed an especially hot version of their hit “Waterfalls,” and Alanis Morissette laced many with a terrific, fully acoustic and uncensored version of her big hit “You Oughta Know.” Overall the 38th Annual Grammy Award Show was one of the best and proved to be more thought provoking than any broadcast in recent memory.

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**BMG Mastercard Bows**

*BMG ENTEERTAINMENT NORTH AMERICA* last week introduced the BMG Mastercard, a banking card that provides the additional benefits of special discounts for music fans at retail stores, the opportunity to hear new and developing artists on sampler CD compilation programs, and access to other music-related benefits such as trips to concerts and award shows and free audio hardware.

“This credit card program is a ‘win-win’ situation for everyone,” says Kevin Conroy, sr. vp of marketing for BMG Ent., which includes labels such as Arista, RCA, Private Music, Windham Hill and Zoo Entertainment as well as other entertainment-related businesses. “The program was designed with the music fan in mind, and at the same time will drive business to retail stores: it also provides us with virtually unlimited promotional possibilities throughout our various businesses, including home video, merchandise and interactive games.”

Initial partners in the marketing of the card are Borders Books and Music and Kenwood U.S.A.

The card will be issued through MBNA America Bank, N.A. BMG MasterCard benefits are accrued based on dollar volume logged on the holder’s account and cardholders can gain benefits from using the card as little as once a month.

MBNA will issue the card, which has no annual fee, an annual percentage rate of prime plus 9.9 percent and a five-month introductory rate of 5.9 percent for cash advances and balance transfers.

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*FILM*
INTERNATIONAL

News From The United Kingdom, Ireland & Europe

By Hal Levv

LONDON’S WALL STREET (THE CITY) reports Thorn EMU at £1.65, down 1.3%. Also down is Rank Organization at £4.67 down 1.3% and PolyGram follows the trend down 22p per share. (E33.73).

GETTIN’ HIGH: Brit rocker, Dave Stewart left his guitar at home when he played with his camera on the outside of the 50th floor at New York’s Empire State Building, where he shot a commercial, featuring kickboxer champ Sean Cochrane for the U.S. company, Russell Athletics. It was Stewart’s first commercial gig.

WANNA GET INTO ERROL’S PANTS OR MARYLIN’S UNDIES? Well, you’ll have to be in London early March when Donham’s Auction House sells off more than 600 lots of entertainment collectibles including a trunk full of Errol Flynn’s clothes and Marilyn Monroe’s outfit from the film Some Like It Hot.

ALL THIS AND MAYBE DEMI TOO, as Bruce Willis, in the UK shooting his latest Fifth Element, is taking an early vacation because he’s performing at a UNICEF Guitar Night. He’ll be joined by former Rolling Stone’s Mick Taylor, Thin Lizzy’s Snow White and bluesman Peter Green. Demi Moore has been invited, but she isn’t said ‘yes’ or ‘no’ as yet.

FLIPPED OVER Oasis says their 1996 album will be a collection of B-sides because, as Noel Gallagher says, their fans have been after them to put out such a record.

LET’S GET IT ON in the European Union. With all 15 countries having different laws regarding taxes, administration and lots of other regulations, it’s difficult and expensive for small business to attempt to work in all the markets. One recent development is the European Economics Interest Groups, companies operating throughout the EU. EEEG’s are statutory bodies, not necessarily commercial living by a partnership and a corporation, which can participate in manufacturing, buying and selling and exchanging information. Several legal groups and universities have already set up their own EEEG’s.

UNCLE SAM MOVE OVER as the European Union joins the U.S. complaint to the World Trade Organization regarding Japan’s refusal to pay royalties on pre-1971 recordings. The complaint as the first to be filed under the WTO’s agreement allows each country to decide how far back to extend retrospective protection, and they chose 1971. The U.S. and EU, on the other hand, say the date should be 30 years or, [496]. The EU claims they are losing $13 million a year in Japan under the 1971 date which the U.S. says its figure is in the half billion dollar range. Japan is the world’s second largest music market with 1994 gross at $6 billion, about 17% of India.

BLAME THE BOSS: According to Led Zeppelin’s Robert Plant, British music is shallow, narcissistic and a reflection on a sorry society. And the blame, according to Plant, is on the record companies who, he says, are draining England’s creative juice. Plant, together with Jimmy Page are finishing up a year-long world tour in Australia which they last played in 1972.

AND HOW OLD IS YOUR INSTRUMENT? Well, it ain’t old enough. Slovenian archaeologists have found a flute 45,000 years old, now the next guy you styles you a Neanderthal is actually complimenting you on discovering music. Previously discovered instruments, found in Libya, are dated some 100,000 years, but they are whistles, not capable of making music.

WE’RE IN THE MONEY: The British Phonographic Industry reports that year-end sales increase of 8.8% took the industry past the £1 billion sales mark. Cockoo’s “Gangsta’s Paradise” was the best selling rap single in the UK and also topping a U.S. chart. Bobby B. & Tobi Johnson & Ocasek’s “I Believe,” both outselling Michael Jackson’s “Earth Song,” which was the number one Christmas seller.

AND SPEAKING OF MICHAEL, he’s in all the papers with links to the British Royal family. It seems that the Brits are hitting at them in their frustration about the influence of the U.S. in England. Unfortunately the TV 90-minute version didn’t show all that was going on stage and backstage. Main complaint against Jackson was that he shouldn’t have been on the show, which was a ‘British’ affair. Then, it was felt his act was too elaborate and too expensive and took the spotlight away from British acts.

MEANWHILE, Oasis continued their reputation of being the newest troublemakers on the block. When Michael Hutchence handed Liam Gallagher the Best Video award, Gallagher ungraciously said that “hasbeens shouldn’t give awards to gonnabes.” His brother, Liam, accepting for Best Album, changed the words from Parakeet to table and tried to shave the head off his rear. Evening ended with Pulp’s Jarvis Cocker coming onto the stage during Jackson’s number and dancing around before being taken off.

OU L’OUI MICHAEL, who reportedly is interested in buying Le Chateau de Chabounet in the Bouzonne Valley near the French city of Tours. The 20 bedroom castle is set in 40 acres and has turrets, ramparts and a drawbridge together with swimming pool, tennis court and the price is only $5 million. Neighbors would include Mick Jagger, and last year Cher was looking for a place in the vicinity. Only problem is, the French are starting to get upset about all their historic castles and palaces ending up in the hands of foreigners, and are trying to get new laws to stop such sales.

MORE IRISH VIRGIN: Richard Branson’s Virgin Radio is taking a 27% interest in the independent Irish station, Dublin 104 FM and changing its name to Virgin Radio after receiving approval from Ireland’s Independent Radio & Television Commission.

GIGS: Irish promoter Jim Aiken has come up with his spring and summer schedule. In Ireland in March will be Bruce Springsteen and Michael Bolton. April promises Barry Manilow and Tony Bennett. Neil Diamond shows up in May, Tina Turner in June and Bon Jovi and The Eagles in July.

TAKE THAT AND THAT AND THAT: Take That’s Robbie Williams, former member of the UK’s top group, threatened to block release of a greatest hits album and also threatened to sue RCA in order to break his contract. He claimed that the ‘leaving member clause’ in his contract was a restraint of free trade. Clause said that any member of a group who leaves a group still remains under contract to the label. Industry interest in the case was due to the fact that if an artist was dissatisfied with his label, in order to lead he and/or another label would have to buy back the contract and thus freeing the artist. However, before the case could come to trial, Williams decided to drop his suit, thus avoiding a court case on leaving member clauses. However, Williams is still liable for court costs which are estimated to run around £70,000.

TOP UK SINGLES: Still on (aahoi) is Babylon Zoo’s ‘Spaceman’ as ‘Anything’ goes on (RCD-8001) for St. Robert Mikes ‘Children’ have got onto the charts at (stttt) pushing Lunic’s “I Got 5 On It” down to (accabank). Still shining on (acca) is Lighthouse Family’s “Lifted” and Jean Osborne’s “One Of Us” has gone up one to (acca) while Blur’s “Stereotypes” bounces on the charts at (acca) followed by another newcomer Bjork’s “Hyperballad” at (acca) pushing Etta James “ I Just Want To Make Love To You” to (aahoi) and Technotheod is still saying “I Wanna Be A Hippy” on (aahoi).

Top UK Album is newcomer Expecting To Fly by The Bluestones. Top UK Video Rental is Sleeping Beauty and Video Sales is Riverdance—The Show, while at the cinema Warner’s Heat is the hot ticket.

Top single in Europe is Babylon Zoo’s ‘Spaceman’ which tops the lists in Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Ireland and Austria. France is living in Coolio’s “Gangsta’s Paradise” while the sound of “Thunder” by East 17 comes from Lithuania and Iceland isn’t “Sick And Tired” of The Cardigans. Spain and Latvia kneel to George Michael’s Jesus To A Child and Italy and Switzerland have taken up with Robert Miles’ “Children.” A Eurovision win in France, the trend still seems to favor native language albums such as the topper in Spain, Gloria Estefan’s “Abriendo Las Puertas” and Celine Dion’s “D’Iau” in France. Backing the trend is Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds’ Murder Ballads leading in Sweden and Norway and Oasis’ “What’s The Story, Morning Glory” in Iceland.

(Irish Numbers courtesy of Lonely Planet Guidebooks.

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February 24, 1996

Ernie Johnson

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FLASH BULBS BLINDED: cameras rolled and the sidewalk was packed with onlookers as The Orville H. Gibson Guitar Awards proceeded at The Hard Rock Cafe. Already seated were Emmy Lou Harris, soon to be recipient of the O.H Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award, and Joni Mitchell, winner of the Best Acoustic Guitarist Award in the female category. Publicists paced and Hard Rock rockers raced to serve everyone. The glittering intensity building in Hollywood on this evening was too much for some. The audience was taken aback by a 100-degree heat wave that sent temperatures soaring to the boiling point. "We're closed until March 4th", this reporter decided to dig a little to find out what was happening inside the giant guitar manufacturing company.

The central figure for the event at the Hard Rock was Mr. Henry Jueskiewicz, chairman CEO for the Gibson Guitar Corp. Juszkiewicz told Cash Box that the company felt it had become far too bureaucratic and slow and that it had decided to de-centralize and rebuild the branch offices. He was apologetic about the fact that some folks had lost their jobs but certain decisions had to be made for the good of the company overall.

The Gibson Guitar Awards is a charitable event for the benefit of the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Foundation and no one can ever say that the stars don't shine for charity in Hollywood as some of the most illustrious music entertainers came to accept their awards. Accepting for Best Rock Guitarist in the male category was Eddie Van Halen. Also in the male category for Best Acoustic Guitarist was Chris Isaak. In the female category, accepting for Chrisie Hynde for Best Rock Guitarist was the absolutely stunning Rosanna Arquette. Then accepting for Best Jazz Guitarist (female) was the very charming and talented Leni Strohm. Cash Box congratulates Gibson and all the winners of the various awards. It's nice to know, however, that the real winners are hundreds of handicapped children across the USA. Good work everyone, with special kudos going out to the best artist/lyricists lady I know in the business Robin Branum, who is now unemployed and can be contacted at 818-908-6333. Kurt Nishimura reports from MCA this week that on March 12th the company will be re-issuing Pete Townsend's masterpiece, the "rock opera" Tommy. The re-issue includes the piece's complete libretto plus brand-new liner notes written by Richard Barnes, author of The Who: Maximum R&B. For you audiophiles this new release has been completely digitally remixed, re-mastered and re-packaged into a single CD, all under the personal supervision of it's creator, Pete Townsend... Finally, Cash Box and this reporter are sad to announce the final place for one of America's greatest influences on the music we know and love as the blues. On Friday, February 16, Mr. Walter "Brownie" McGhee passed away leaving one of America's biggest black eye-cancer. His name became synonymous with Sonny Terry and he was considered to be one of the leading figures of what came to be known as the Piedmont Blues. "Brownie" McGhee will be well remembered. Be good to yourselves 'til next time and remember, the Gods love the blues.

**Album Reviews**


It never ceases to amaze how blind American record companies can be. The fact that Silvertones Records had Walter Trout and turned him loose is simply amazing. Of course there are great guitarists around every corner, but Walter Trout is light years ahead of 99.9% of them. Mr. Trout, a true veteran in this music industry will soon prove to the USA as he's now proving to Europe, that the American companies are sometimes deaf as posts. Posted number six guitar player in Britain via a popular British poll, Walter's new CD "Breaking The Rules" is a huge seller throughout the UK and Scandinavia, Holland, Belgium and now Germany. The question is why is it that so many great American artists have to go to Europe to do it? It's making the companies in the good 'ol USA look fairly ridiculous. Walter Trout has the finest credentials his heart and soul could produce. Three albums with John Mayall, tours with John Lee Hooker and Big Mama Thornton and four wood belied the vast changes taking place inside the Gibson company.

**Willie Clayton: Ace In The Hole** (Ace-2066) Producers: Various

Well, well. Ace Records rides again and it looks as though Ace is riding into the winner's circle with Willie Clayton. *Ace In The Hole* just might be what Johnny Vincent has been looking for to revitalize his world famous Ace Records label. Produced by Willy himself with X. Parker and Ronnie Lovejoy, this CD is causing a big stir across the whole East Coast of the USA. The object of the buzz is the cut "Equality," which has the ladies in arms or out in arms as the may be the case. Women's clubs all the way to the White House are enamored with this record which by this time has sold through 58,000 units and as Johnny Vincent states "It's just getting started." Willy Clayton is a great R&B artist, but the record speaks for itself. Tightly arranged by Clayton and Harrison Callaway, this CD is reminiscent of the funk of the '60s. Recommended cuts are "Equality," "Three People (Sleepin' In My Bed)," and "My Baby's Cheatin' On Me." Significant airplay is producing excellent sales mostly from R&B outlets. Signs that this crossover is starting to happen.

**Fleetwood Mac: Live At The BBC** (Castle 114-2)

Devotees of Peter Green, it's finally come. All your favorite Fleetwood Mac cuts, live, on two CDs. The original cast playing their parts off. No BS. Not much echo. No flying faders just a straight out radio mixer and a hell of an engineer twisting the knobs. Hard edged and brutal blues rock the way you like it. Praise the BBC for recording this music in the first place then maintaining these treasures all these years. From Fleetwood Mac's first minor hit "Rattlesnake Shake" to "Oh Well" and everything in between, this CD is a "must have" for any collector and Peter Green- Fleetwood Mac fans.
CASH BOX

TOP 100 COUNTRY SINGLES

MARCH 9, 1996

This Week's #1:
Alan Jackson

Highest Debut:
John Michael Montgomery

1. "I'll Try" (MCA) by Alan Jackson
2. "Wild Angels" (RCA 66509) by Martina McBride
3. "I Know She Still Loves Me" (MCA 11203) by George Strait
4. "The Beaches of Cheyenne" (Capitol Nashville 32080) by Garth Brooks
5. "You Can Feel Bad" (Epic 67209) by Patty Loveless
6. "What I Meant to Say" (Columbia/DIC 66412) by Wade Hayes
7. "If You Loved Me" (Atlantic) by Tracey Lawrence
8. "To Be Loved by You" (Curb/MCA 11090) by Wynonna
9. "Out with a Bang" (MCA 55153) by David Lee Murphy
10. "Walking Away (Arista 1-2344) by Diamond Rio

11. "Hypnotize the Moon" (Curb 17704) by Clay Walker
12. "Some Things Are Meant to Be" (Atlantic) by Linda Davis
13. "Not That Different" (Epic 71251) by Collin Raye
14. "She Said Yes" (Decca 11090) by Rett Atkins
15. "Too Much Fun" (Curb 24606) by Daryle Singletary
16. "You Gotta Feel Bad" (Epic 67209) by Neal McCoy
17. "It Wouldn't Hurt to Have Wings" (Decca 11201) by Mark Chesnutt
18. "No News" (EIM) by Lonestar
19. "It Works" (Epic 65528) by Alabama
20. "Hearts Desire (Curb)" by Lee Roy Parnell
21. "I Do What I Know" (Columbia 67225) by Ricochet
22. "Ready Willing and Able" (Epic 67472) by Lari White
23. "The River and the Highway" (Atlantic) by Pam Tillis
24. "Without Your Love" (Epic 67470) by Aaron Tippin
25. "You Win My Love" (Mercury 52269) by Shania Twain
26. "Heaven in My Woman's Eyes" (MCA 11242) by Tracy Byrd
27. "Standing Tall" (EIM 60505) by Lorrie Morgan
28. "Bigger Than the Beatle" (Epic 67405) by Joe Diffie
29. "It's What I Do" (Capitol Nashville) by Billy Dean
30. "All You Ever Do Is Bring Me Down" (EIM 67021) by John Michael Montgomery

31. "Heads Carolina, Tails California" (Curb) by Jo Dee Messina
32. "Someone Else's Dream" (Warner Bros. 45872) by Faith Hill
33. "She's Got a Mind of Her Own" (EIM 67069) by James Bonamy
34. "Every Time My Heart Calls Your Name" (Curb 11201) by The Mavericks
35. "All I Can Dream" (Capitol Nashville 66395) by John Michael Montgomery
36. "Even if I Tried" (Capitol Nashville) by John Michael Montgomery
37. "Long as I Live" (Atlantic) by John Michael Montgomery
38. "Almost a Memory Now" (Atlantic) by Blackhawk
39. "Now That's All Right With Me" (Asylum) by Mandy Barnett
40. "1969" (MCA 52267) by Keith Stellag
41. "I Think That'll Be Me" (Reprise 6972) by Dwight Yoakam
42. "Wild Horses" (Epic 65577) by Stephanie Bentley
43. "All I Want Is a Life" (Curb) by Tim McGraw
44. "Ten Thousand Angels" (EIM) by Mindy McCready
45. "Paradise (EIM) by John Anderson
46. "She Got What She Deserves" (Decca 11303) by Frazier River
47. "Let Your Heart Lead Your Mind" (MCA/Curb) by Smokin' Armadillos

48. "Hangin' On" (Magneotone) by Rich McCready

49. "All Over But the Shoutin'" (Capitol Nashville 35352) by Shenandoah
50. "The Love That We Lost" (Polydor) by Chely Wright
51. "Years From Here" (Curb) by Baker & Myers
52. "Like There Ain't No Yesterday" (Atlantic) by Blackhawk
53. "Ring on Her Finger, Time on Her Hands" (MCA 12642) by Reba McEntire
54. "Country Crazy" (Warner Bros. 45017) by Little Texas
55. "Round Here" (Curb 77735) by Sawyer Brown
56. "Lady's Man" (River North Nashville 1152) by Rob Crosby
57. "Only You (And You Alone)" (Warner Bros. 17792) by Travis Tritt
58. "If You're Not in It for Love" (Mercury 52285) by Shania Twain
59. "Rippling" (Polydor 52737) by 4 Runner
60. "Not Enough Hours in the Night" (Giant 17764) by Doug Supernaw
61. "Remember the Rose" (Curb) by Perfect Stranger
62. "Back Where We Belong" (Atlantic) by Ricky Skaggs
63. "Grandpa Told Me So" (BNA 66502) by Kenny Chesney
64. "The Strength of a Woman" (Curb) by Philip Claypool
65. "It Matters to Me" (Warner Bros. 45972) by Faith Hill
66. "Cowboy Love" (Atlantic) by John Michael Montgomery
67. "Love to Burn" (Columbia/DIC 67150) by Mark Collie
68. "Rebecca Lynn" (Asylum 62144) by Bryan White
69. "Heart Half Empty" (Epic 66387) by Ty Herndon & Stephanie Bentley
70. "My Wife Thinks You're Dead" (MCA/Curb) by Junior Brown
71. "Can't Be Really Gone" (Curb 77830) by Tim McGraw
72. "When Boy Meets Girl" (Mercury 526961) by Terri Clark
73. "We've Got to Keep on Meeting Like This" (Scarlet Moon)
74. "She Can't Save Him" (Capitol Nashville) by Lisa Brokop
75. "Always Have, Always Will" (Capitol Nashville 16302) by Shenandoah
76. "The Car" (Curb/Curb 77744) by Jeff Carson
77. "Deep Down" (Atlantic) by Pam Tillis
78. "Tall, Tall Trees" (Atlantic) by Alan Jackson
79. "When a Woman Loves a Man" (Capitol 107602) by Lee Roy Parnell
80. "Life Gets Away" (Epic 66419) by Clint Black
81. "Born in the Dark" (Columbia/DIC 64330) by Doug Stone
82. "Worth the Fall" (Curb 12655) by Brett James
83. "In Pictures" (Capitol 66525) by Alabama
84. "Nothing" (Reprise 17734) by Dwight Yoakam
85. "Love Lessons" (MCA 3428) by Tracy Byrd
86. "Smoke in Her Eyes" (EIM 41405) by Ty England
87. "Solid Ground" (Atlantic) by Ricky Skaggs
88. "If I Had Any Pride Left at All" (Capitol Nashville) by John Kenny
89. "That's as Close as I'll Get to Loving You" (RCA) by Aaron Tippin
90. "Here Comes the Rain" (MCA 11257) by The Mavericks
91. "Go Rest High on That Mountain" (MCA 11047) by Vince Gill
92. "Tequila Talkin'" (BNA 66642) by Lonestar
93. "On a Bus to St. Cloud" (MCA 11201) by Trisha Yearwood
94. "Life Goes On" (Warner Bros. 17770) by Little Texas
95. "What If Jesus Comes Back Like That" (Epic 67033) by Collin Raye
96. "Veil of Tears" (Curb 76985) by Hal Ketchum
97. "Fever" (Capitol Nashville 20050) by Garth Brooks
98. "It's Not the End of the World" (Capitol Nashville) by Emilio
99. "Who Needs You Baby" (Curb 17771) by Clay Walker
100. "Back in Your Arms Again" (BNA 66505) by Lorrie Morgan
COUNTRY MUSIC

COUNTRY SINGLES INDEX

FRANKIE HAMLIN: "It's a Shame" (Capitol DPRO-10338)

Late at night just before last call is the best time to hear "Five Dollar Fine." This cowboy-guru with a phenomenal rodeo circuit following sings Alex Harvey's clever tune with a no-frills reading that is pure Ledoux. Incidentally, the fine referred to in the song is for whining. It's the kind of a house band would lead the crowd in singing—in fact, that's the way the song ends—with a singalong.

CHRIS LEDOUX: "Five Dollar Fine"

Pick of the Week

If I Were You

TERRI CLARK: "If I Were You" (Mercury MNC-106)

Clark burst on the scene as the only female hat act and is comfortably settling in a Strait-meets-McEntire mode with "If I Were You." Though SteeTerson persona seemed gimmicky at first, she is proving herself to be the real deal through great songwriting and a voice that is just as convincing. This ballad, which can elicit tenderness as well as toughness.

Single Reviews By Wendy Newcomer

TIM MCGRAW: "All I Want Is A Life" (Curb D-1227)

Sharpen production and a swaggering performance are the reasons why "All I Want Is A Life" will join the ranks of McGraw's other hits. Similar to "I Like It, I Love It" in its driving beat, it appears to have the secret ingredient that is making McGraw a radio mainstay.

FAITH HILL: "Someone Else's Dream" (Warner Bros. PRO-CD-8039)

Finding positive and uplifting songs for female singers these days is about as easy as finding a male singer who doesn't wear tight jeans. But Hill has found a song that fits the bill (and her sweetheart image)—she sings the heck out of it, too. If women truly are the buyers and target audience for this single, it should hit the bullseye.

JOE DIFFIE: "C-O-U-N-T-R-Y-" (Epic ESK 07824)

Joe, are you a "country"? Let us know how you really feel. Diffie's latest manages to cram every musical and lyrical cliché ever invented into two minutes and 33 seconds. But then again, not every song is created to stimulate the mind. Boot scooters and line dancers will no doubt pack this one up and make a club smash out of it.
Nashville Honors Gill, Krauss

MUSIC CITY HONORED ITS BRIGHTEST AND BEST talents Feb. 21 at the Second Annual Nashville Music Awards held at the Ryman Auditorium. Among the evening's double winners were Vince Gill, who won for Male Vocalist and Song of the Year ("Go Rest High On That Mountain"), and Alison Krauss, who took home the trophy for Female Vocalist and Best Bluegrass/Old-Time Music Album (Now That I've Found You: A Collection).

The awards program, which celebrated the diverse music of the Music City, was attended by many of the nominees, Tennessee Governor and Mrs. Don Sundquist and Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen. Thirteen of Nashville's hometown acts performed to a sold-out audience with proceeds from the evening split between The W.O. Smith School of Music, the Nashville Institute for the Arts and Leadership Music.

In addition to Gill and Krauss, legendary radio and TV personality Hoss Allen was honored with the Heritage Award for his lifelong contribution to the Nashville R&B and blues scene. Warner Bros. president Jim Ed Norman was also presented with the Bridge Award for bringing together the music business and the Nashville community.

Other winners for the night were Best Album: Blues—Tracy Nelson, I Feel So Good (Rounder Records); Contemporary Christian—Ashley Cleveland, Lessons of Love (Reunion Records); Traditional Gospel—Christ Church Choir, Lift Him Higher (Landmark/Vision); Folk—Emmylou Harris, Wrecking Ball (Asylum); Country—Martina McBride, Wild Angels (RCA); Jazz/Instrumental—Bela Fleck, Tales From The Acoustic Planet (Reprise); Rock—Fleming & John, Delusions of Grandeur (R.E.X.); Rhythm & Blues—Al Kooper, Soul of a Man: Live (Music Masters); Pop (tie)—Michael W. Smith, I'll Lead You Home (Reunion Records) and John Prine, Lost Dogs & Mixed Blessings (Oh Boy); Rap—Count Bass D, Pre-Life Crisis (Hoppah/Work/Sony Music). Re-issue Recording—Roger Miller, King of the Road: The Genius of Roger Miller (Mercury); Children's Music Recording—J. Aaron Brown/Dave Lehman, Sleepy Time Lullabies (J. Aaron Brown Assoc.); Classical Music Recording—Mark O'Connor, The Eddie Concutto (Warner Bros.); and Independent Recording—Webb Wilder, Texas & Country (Watermelon). Individual Achievement Songwriter—Greetschen Peters, Artist/ Songwriter—Alan Jackson, Group—BR5-49, Unsung Artist—Stone Deep; Background Vocalist—Jonell Mosser; Drummer—Perussionist—Eddie Bayers; Guitarist—Kenny Greenberg; Bassist—Vickey Wooten; Pianist/Keyboards—Matt Rollings; Mix. Instrumental—Bela Fleck (banjo); Producer—Emory Gordy, Jr.; Audio Engineer—John Van Ettan; Video of the Year—Safe In The Arms Of Love (Steven Goldmann/High Five, performed by Martina McBride); Album Artwork—Fun Girls From Mt. Pilot (Art direction: Fun Girls From Mt. Pilot); Radio Station—WRLT-FM 100. Music Venue, Small—328 Performance Hall; Music Venue, Large—The Ryman Auditorium; and Music Writer/Journalist—Robert K. Oermann.

In Other News...

WATERMELON RECORDING ARTIST DON WALSER was profiled on ABC's Prime Time Live show on Feb. 14. The spot was filmed in Walser's hometown of Austin, TX and features the yodeler's live performances and interviews.

THE CMA HAS CHOSEN KEITH REINHARD as the opening keynote speaker for its May 8-10 "Marketing With Country Music" seminar. Reinhard is chairman of the board and CEO of the advertising agency DDB Needham Worldwide, Inc.

ALABAMA BRAVED WINTERY CONDITIONS Feb. 2 to help WMZQ radio in Washington, D.C. raise $10,000 for the St. Jude Hospital at the Patriot Center in Fairfax, Virginia. The band also was honored with the AMA Favorite Country Group trophy for the 14th consecutive year.

TNN WILL SAMPLE THE MUSIC OF IRELAND with An Evening In Dublin With Mary Chapin Carpenter and Paul Brady on March 12 at 8 p.m. (EST). Brady played the tin whistle on Carpenter's "Jubilee," a song from her most recent album, Stones In The Road.

KITTY MOON, PRESIDENT OF SCENE THREE, INC. recently announced the completion of the Dolby Surround mixing and overdubbing for the Disney Channel's Travis Tritt special, which included live concert footage and personal interviews.

GEORGE BRINER WAS APPOINTED director of national promotion for Magnatone Records. Briner will report to the new sv. vp. of promotion Chuck Rhodes.

DWAYNE YOAKAM'S LATEST ALBUM, Gone (on Reprise Records), has been certified gold by the RIAA. Gone features the single "Nothing" as well as the current release, the title cut.

THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS round out the re-organized Warner Bros. Nashville promotion staff: Rick Baumgartner, head of national promotion; Cliff Blake, Northeast promotion mgr.; and Tom Moran, Midwest regional promotion mgr. Other members of the staff are Rowanne McIntyre, Southeast; Bruce Adelman, West; and Brad Howell, Southeast.

ALAN JACKSON RECENTLY GUEST-STARRED on Tim Allen's popular ABC sitcom Home Improvement. The CMA's reigning Entertainer of the Year performed his hit song "Mercury Blues" on the show's fictitious cable TV program "Tool Time."

BROOKS & DUNN AND FAITH HILL will be the hosts for the 31st annual Academy of Country Music Awards held April 24 on NBC-TV. The show will be telecast live from the Universal Theater in California, with portions of it also taped at Universal Studios in Hollywood and Florida.

TRAVIS TRITT PERFORMED A FREE CONCERT at the legendary Ernest Tubb Record Shop in downtown Nashville. In years past, the record shop was the site of many post-Grand Ole Opry jam sessions. Tritt's performance was broadcast live on WSM-AM 650.

BUG MUSIC HAS INKED A DEAL with Johnny Cash. The publishing company will act as the caretaker for the entire House of Cash catalog. Cash will maintain equity and control of his work and will be involved in all aspects of the use of his music.

KATHY CHIAVOLA SIGNED A EUROPEAN licensing agreement with Elvis Costello's Demon Records, Ltd. for her new bluegrass/acoustic CD The Harvest, scheduled for an April 29 release. Chiavola is backed by her band Randy Howard, Roy Huskey, Jr. and Brent Truitt, plus guest Chet Atkins, Vince Gill, Bill Monroe and Tony Rice, among others.
COUNTRY MUSIC

TOP 75 COUNTRY ALBUMS

MARCH 9, 1996

The square bullet indicates upward chart movement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Album Title</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Peak Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE WOMAN IN ME</td>
<td>Shania Twain</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#1</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE GREATEST HITS!</td>
<td>Alan Jackson</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>#2</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRESH HORSES</td>
<td>Garth Brooks</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>#3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT MATTERS TO ME</td>
<td>Faith Hill</td>
<td>Epic</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIME MARCHES ON</td>
<td>Tracy Lawrence</td>
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<td>THE HITS</td>
<td>Garth Brooks</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>#6</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE TROUBLE WITH THE TRUTH</td>
<td>Patty Loveless</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#7</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUVENIRS: GREATEST HITS!</td>
<td>Vince Gill</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#8</td>
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<tr>
<td>STARTING OVER</td>
<td>Reba McEntire</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#9</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALL I WANT</td>
<td>Tim McGraw</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#10</td>
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<td>SITUATIONS</td>
<td>Wynonna</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>#11</td>
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<tr>
<td>I THINK ABOUT YOU</td>
<td>Collin Raye</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#12</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOHN MICHAEL</td>
<td>John Michael Montgomery</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#13</td>
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<tr>
<td>HYPNOTIZE THE MOON</td>
<td>Clay Walker</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#14</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAMES REDNECKS PLAY</td>
<td>Jeff Foxworthy</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#15</td>
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<tr>
<td>GREATEST HITS FROM THE BEGINNING</td>
<td>Travis Tritt</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#16</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRAIT OUT OF THE BOX</td>
<td>George Strait</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#17</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUCKOHAYE (RCA 78658)</td>
<td>Bryan White</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#18</td>
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<tr>
<td>OUT WITH A BANG</td>
<td>David Lee Murphy</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>#19</td>
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<tr>
<td>TERRI CLARK</td>
<td>Terri Clark</td>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>#20</td>
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1. FAITH HILL—"Someone Else’s Dream"—(Warner Bros.)—#32
2. FRAZIER RIVER—"She Got What She Deserves"—(Decay)—#45
3. BAKER & MYERS—"Years From Here"—(MCA/Curb)—#50
4. BLACKHAWK—"Almost A Memory Now"—(Arista)—#37
5. SHANIA TWAIN—"You Win My Love"—(Mercury)—#25
6. MINDY McCREADY—"Ten Thousand Angels"—(RCA)—#43
7. CHELY WRIGHT—"The Love That We Lost"—(Polydor)—#49

POWERFUL ON THE PLAYLIST—The Cash Box Top 100 Country Singles chart is led by the Alan Jackson single "I’ll Try." This week’s chart displays seven big movers and three debuts breaking into the Top 50. Leading the way in the most-movement category is Faith Hill and "Someone Else’s Dream," which jumped nine spots to #45. "Years From Here" by Baker & Myers also moved nine to #50. Blackhawk’s "Almost A Memory Now" moved eight spots to #37. Three songs jumped seven spots this week. "You Win My Love" by Shania Twain—#25; "Ten Thousand Angels" by Mindy McCready—#43; and "The Love That We Lost" by Chely Wright—#49. As for debuts, three artists hit this week’s Top 50. Leading the way for the highest debut position with the single "Long As I Live" is John Michael Montgomery at #36, Tim McGraw enters at #42 with "All I Want Is A Life," and Shania Twain debuts at #48 with "All Over But The Shoutin.”

Songwriter Of The Week: Congratulations to Alan Jackson, writer of his #1 hit, "I’ll Try.”

CMT Top Twelve Video Countdown

1. MARTINA MCBRIDE—"Wild Angels" (RCA)
2. DIAMOND RIO—"Walkin’ Away" (Arista)
3. TRACY LAWRENCE—"If You Loved Me" (Atlantic)
4. THE MAVERICKS—"All You Ever Do Is Bring Me Down" (MCA)
5. LINDA DAVIS—"Some Things Are Meant To Be" (Arista)
6. CLAY WALKER—"Hypnotize The Moon" (Giant)
7. LONESTAR—"No News" (BNA)
8. ALABAMA—"It Works" (RCA)
9. JOE DIFFIE—"Bigger Than The Beatles" (Epic)
10. DARYLE SINGLETARY—"Too Much Fun" (Giant)
11. BILLY DEAN—"It’s What I Do" (Capitol)
12. LORRIE MORGAN—"Standing Tall" (BNA)

—Compliments of CMT video countdown, week ending February 28, 1996
RADIO PLAYLISTS

Some of what’s playing in heavy rotation:

KGLS-FM/Hutchinson, KS
ALAN JACKSON—“I’ll Try”
GARTH BROOKS—“The Beaches Of Cheyenne”
MARTINA McBRIDE—“Wild Angels”
GEORGE STRAIT—“I Know She Still Loves Me”
PATTY LOVELESS—“You Can Feel Bad”

WFMW/Madisonville, KY
JOE DIFFIE—“Bigger Than The Beatles”
GARTH BROOKS—“The Beaches Of Cheyenne”
DOUG SUPERNAW—“Not Enough Hours In The Night”
BLACKHAWK—“Like There Ain’t No Yesterday”
COLLIN RAYE—“Not That Different”
DAVID LEE MURPHY—“Out With A Bang”
WADE HAYES—“What I Meant To Say”

WNCO-FM/Ashland City, OH
JOE DIFFIE—“Bigger Than The Beatles”
JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY—“Cowboy Love”
BLACKHAWK—“Like There Ain’t No Yesterday”
GARTH BROOKS—“The Beaches Of Cheyenne”

WNPC-FM/Newport, TN
GEORGE STRAIT—“I Know She Still Loves Me”
COLLIN RAYE—“Not That Different”
PATTY LOVELESS—“You Can Feel Bad”
WADE HAYES—“What I Meant To Say”
ALAN JACKSON—“I’ll Try”

KE RR/Poison, MT
SHANIA TWAIN—“(If You’re Not In It For Love) I’m Outta Here”
DOUG SUPERNAW—“Not Enough Hours In The Night”
JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY—“Cowboy Love”
BLACKHAWK—“Like There Ain’t No Yesterday”
JOE DIFFIE—“Bigger Than The Beatles”

KVLL/Woodville, TX
JOE DIFFIE—“Bigger Than The Beatles”
WADE HAYES—“What I Meant To Say”
ALAN JACKSON—“I’ll Try”
MARTINA McBRIDE—“Wild Angels”
GARTH BROOKS—“The Beaches Of Cheyenne”

WOCO/Oconto, WI
MARTINA McBRIDE—“Wild Angels”
GARTH BROOKS—“The Beaches Of Cheyenne”
JOHN ANDERSON—“Paradise”
DAVID LEE MURPHY—“Out With A Bang”
LINDA DAVIS—“Some Things Are Meant To Be”

Hamstein Music announced the establishment of a co-publishing venture between its company and House Notes Music, a company owned by well-known Nashville radio personalities, Gerry House and Devon O’Day. Pictured standing are (l-r): Richard Perna, vp/creative affairs, Hamstein; House, House Notes Music; and Dean Migchelbrink, vp/business affairs, Hamstein. Seated (l-r): O’Day, House Notes Music; and Kim Jones, director of creative services, Hamstein Music.

Columbia Records’ new group Ricochet was recently honored in Las Vegas with a key to the city. Pictured at the Fremont Street Experience are (l-r): Heath Wright, Jeff Bryant and Greg Cook, Ricochet; city councilman Gary Reese; Junior Bryant, Eddie Kilgallon and Teddy Carr, Ricochet.

Music executive and businessman Buddy Killen held his 16th Annual Easter Seal Benefit Dinner, Show & Celebrity Auction at the Stock Yard in Nashville and raised over $126,000 for the Easter Seal Society of Tennessee. Pictured at the celebrity auction are (l-r): Former lead singer for the group Poison, Bret Michaels; actor Charlie Sheen; Killen; and Tanya Tucker.
This Week's Debut

ROB TRIPP—"Sad Song"—(Mountainview)—#33
LORI LOZA—"O Me Of Little Faith"—(Salt Music)—#34
HARVEY PERDUE—"In Hometown U.S.A."—(PCC)—#37

Most Active

JEFF SILVEY—"Little Bit Of Faith"—(Ransom)—#17
MARTY RAYBON—"Drive Another Nail"—(Sparrow)—#22
JEFF MCKEE—"Lake Of Fire"—(Mountainview)—#18
SUSAN ASHTON—"Stand"—(Sparrow)—#21
PATTY LOVELESS—"A Handful Of Dust"—(Word Nashville)—#24

Powerful On The Playlist

Leading the Cash Box Positive Country singles chart this week is Wilcox & Pardoe with "Till They Know How Much You Care," on Light Records. "Long Walk Home" by MidSouth falls to the #2 position. Moving up one to #3 is Brian Barrett and "Goin' To." "Bull By The Horns" by Ronnie McKinley drops one to #4, and Lisa Dagg holds on one more week with "The Gift" at #5. "Church Of The Cherokee" by Bruce Haynes moves one spot to #6. Scott Brown and his latest, "The Right One," moves up four spots to #7. Susie Luchsinger stays steady at #8 with "You're It," and The Manuel Family Band drops three to #9 with "Look Who's Laughing Now." Finally, Elaine Anderson moves up two into the #10 position with "Come As You Are."

LOOKING AHEAD

Singles that are still gaining ground at radio this week include: Betsi Craig with "Anything For Grace," "For The Sake Of Love" by Jim Carruthers, "It Just Dawned On Me" by Morgan & Morgan and "Unfinished Business" by Steve Hughes.

Granny Award winning artist Bruce Carroll signs a recording contract with Benson Music Group. Carroll is currently at work on his first project for Benson with producer Reed Arvin. Pictured at the signing are (L to R) seated: manager Joe Moscheo, The Judd House; Carroll; and Steve Frey, president of Music Entertainment Group, parent company to Benson. Standing: Greg Oliver, president of the Greg Oliver Agency; Dan Lynch, vp of marketing, Benson; and Ken Pennell, vp of A&R for Benson Music Group.
ACME '96...Special Events

CHICAGO—In addition to the array of exhibits, the comprehensive educational program and the many other attractions ACME '96 has to offer, a number of other meetings will be held during the course of the March 6-9 show.

The Government Relations Committee will meet on March 6 at 8:30 a.m. in Salon 10, Omni/Rosen Hotel, followed by a meeting of the Foreign Business Development Committee at 9 a.m. in Salon 11 of the Omni/Rosen. At 10 a.m. on this date, the Industry Promotion Committee will convene in Salon 10, followed by the AAMA Board only meeting at 11 a.m. in Salon 12 and the AAMA Board of Directors meeting at 12 noon in Signature 2 of the Omni/Rosen.

The annual AAMCF Appreciation Dinner, honoring Jon Brady of Brady Distributing, will take place on Friday, March 8 at the Omni/Rosen. Prior to this event a Silent Auction will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., with a lot of terrific prizes being offered. Proceeds will go to the Jon P. Brady Scholarship Fund.

ACME '96 showgoers will have the opportunity to win a 1996 Camaro Convertible by purchasing tickets for the AAMCF Car Raffle. Tickets are $50 each or three for $100. Drawing will take place at 12 noon on Saturday, March 8. Proceeds from the raffle will also go to the Jon P. Brady Scholarship Fund.

ACME Pre-Registration Up 22 Percent!

CHICAGO—The ACME Show Committee reported pre-registration figures for the 1996 American Coin Machine Exposition are up this year by 22 percent. All indications are that this 10th Anniversary year could break all records!

The annual ACME convention has been enjoying steadily increasing popularity as a result of the numerous innovative programs incorporated into the show agenda.

This year will see a series of three 90-minute Disney University Professional Development Programs, which offer insight into the Disney approach to people management, quality service and creativity. Randy Fromm's TECFEST, designed for service technicians, will provide everything from video training centers to technician certification programs to troubleshooting clinics. League & Tournament Row, a first this year, will feature exhibits and table top displays providing information on leagues and tournaments from the top promoters in the business.

ACME '96, sponsored by the American Amusement Machine Association, will take place March 7-9 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

Strong Op Response To '95 Area 51 Sweepstakes

CHICAGO—When Time Warner Interactive/Atari Games introduced Area 51 at last year's AMOA convention, an Area 51 sweepstakes was also launched as part of the factory's marketing campaign. Operators were offered a chance to enter a prize drawing and by the time the sweepstakes ended close to 1300 operators from throughout the country had participated.

The drawing was held in December of '95. The grand prize winner was Michael Pizzi of M & P Amusement in York, Pennsylvania, who received an Area 51 kit. "I've never won anything before," he said, "so it was a nice surprise.

According to Mary Fujihara, vice president of marketing for TWI, "This promotion was one of the most successful to date as we had a high response rate from the trade shows, open houses and direct mailers we sent. It's also good to hear from a satisfied customer," she added, "as it turns out that Mr. Pizzi has a few Area 51 games and he is very happy with the ROI.

Twenty-two other operators won either a 62-inch Area 51 banner or an Area 51 t-shirt. Area 51 has been shipping in both upright 25-inch and Showcase 33-inch versions. The universal kit did not go into shipment until March of this year.

Time Warner Releases Area 51 Kit

CHICAGO—Time Warner Interactive/Atari Games announced the release of their Area 51 universal kit and the launching of a national Area 51 "Operation Shootout" tie-in contest. The kit, available in early March, will be showcased at ACME '96 in Orlando and backed up by aggressive advertising, direct mail and player promotions.

A cinematic-style shooting game for 1 or 2 players, Area 51 was released in two dedicated configurations in November of '95 and subsequently achieved number one status on video charts. The economically priced new kit is simple to convert for JAMMA-compatible cabinets such as NAMTAM, Lethal Enforcer, Mortal Kombat and the Street Fighter series. The kit contains everything required to simply convert JAMMA-compatible cabinets, including a pre-mounted PCB/Hand drive tray, a complete set of drums, cables, holsters and harnesses; attraction, side, control panel and bezel decals, start buttons and lexan overlay.

"Area 51 is a real bargain," stated Mike Taylor, vice president of sales at Time Warner Interactive. "The test earnings we've seen on converted cabinets are incredible. This kit is very versatile and will transform stagnant wood into a top earning product," he continued. "Area 51 is a perfect fit for bowling alleys, bars, pizza parlors, movie theaters, and every other place you would ever find a video game.

TWI is also launching an innovative contest to "drive Area 51 players into a frenzy!" Promoted over the Internet and the Area 51 World Wide Web site, the "Operation Shootout" contest offers players the ultimate challenge—to find all fourteen of the secret room entrances hidden in the six levels of the game. These rooms, each of which has a name such as "Egg Cellent" or "Chow Palace," are not part of normal game play; they can be entered only after solving a certain sequence of objects within the game. Winners will receive their own dedicated Area 51 arcade unit. A host of additional prizes, including t-shirts, STARR Team dog tags and limited-edition pins, will also be given away.

"This will be a fun contest," explained product manager Derry DePiest. "When we created Area 51, we put in a lot of hidden bonuses that we knew would take players a long time to find. In fact, there is a whole secret mode of play buried in the game, with a completely different outcome and storyline," he continued. "Many of these trickier Easter eggs have yet to be discovered. A large portion of our players are 'wired,' so we wanted to run a promotion over the Internet's World Wide Web. We'll continually be offering players hints through our Web site, so they should check back often to find new information."

Players can qualify for the contest on any Area 51 machine, dedicated or kit converted. They can enter the contest through the Area 51 World Wide Web page (located at http://pathfinder.com/twi/area51), via email (area 51@games.com), or by sending a letter to TWI, Attention Area 51 Contest, 675 Sycamore Drive, Mispun, CA 93035. Entrants should list the fourteen separate secret rooms, the name of the room and what game play features unlocks each, and their home address and phone number. Entries must be received by July 1, 1996, following which winners will be drawn and prizes awarded.

Century Club Meeting

CHICAGO—The Century Club, which is composed of individuals who have been in the coin machine industry for twenty-five years or more, will be meeting during the upcoming ACME convention in Orlando, Florida.

Meeting date is Friday, March 8, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., in Room 309B of the Orange County Convention Center. The meeting room is located one floor above the exhibit hall.

Club president Steve Kordek advised the meeting does not have a sponsor as yet so those attending may be asked for voluntary contributions to help defray the cost of food and beverages being served.
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