All the news that's fit

# KC PITCH

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Kansas City's free music and entertainment newspaper

Issue 68

## Confessin' the blues

by Scott O'Kelley

By the spring of 1939, Kansas City was on a political reform binge. Boss Tom Pendergast was on his way to a tax fraud conviction and the corruption that made KC the "Paris of the Plains" went with him. The great bands of Basie and Andy Kirk had gone on to bigger and better things and the glory days of the jumping Kaycee jazz scene were almost memory. This isn't to say that the Southwest was suddenly without talent. Harlan Leonard and his Rocket were still operating out of the area and great musicians like Buddy Anderson and Buster Smith were still around. But the days of easy money for all the musicians that had flocked to KC in the last 10 years were gone.

About the same time that they were packing Pendergast off to the federal pen, a young pianist from Muskogee. Oklahoma was forming his first major orchestra. With a style rooted in the blues, boogie woogie and barrelhouse traditions of the barnstorming territory bands of the Southwest. Jay McShann commanded a lot of respect in a town that already had more than its fair share of piano talent.

The McShann orchestra was the last of the great Kansas City big bands. It was comprised of the cream of the crop of young area musicians and represented the rough, hard-swinging sound that typified the territorial orchestras Though the club goers of KC were musically sophisticated, they demanded a solid beat at an exciting born section They weren as imsolos that were staples of the Harlem bands of this era. Instead, the emphasis was on a driv ing rhythm and the core of any successful KC outfit was a strong piano/bass/drums foundation. The piano player had to be able to propel the brass while pounding out the rhythm for hours on end. Strong wrists and agile left hands were a must for any pianist that wanted to keep the dance floors jammed and the club owners

McShann was a natural. With his feeling for the blues and apercussive power, he was in great demand as a sideman. After a couple of years with local small groups, he began assembling his own big band. Some of the backing was provided by the same local businessman who had helped Basie get off the ground. Gus Johnson on drums and Gene Ramey on bass with McShann on plano comprised one of the best rhythm sections since the Basie/Jones/Page section and provided a solid footing for the young soloists that included Buddy Anderson, Piggy Minor, Bob Mabane and vocalist Walter Brown.

Rounding out the horn section was a young alto player named Charles Parker. Like his idol. Lester Young. Parker was the driving force behind the band on many nights and often its most interesting soloist. Barely 19. Charlie Parker had many of his advanced musical notions already intact. Though stories of Parker showing up late (if at all) and without a horn are numerous. McShann appreciated Parker's efforts and let him us the bandstand as his own musical laboratory. Charlie Parker's contribution to the advancement of jazz is also McShann's legacy and proves his orchestra to be one of the most important to come out of KC.

while on a swing through Wichita in the fall of 1940, the band cut some radio transcriptions for station KFBI. On Saturday, November 30, the band made two recordings, "I Found a New Baby" and "Body and Soul." These mark the first time Charlie Parker's alto was recorded. The following Monday, a nearly identical lineup cut five more tunes, including "Moten Swing," a KC standard, "Lady Be Good" and "Honeysuckle Rose." "Body and Soul" shows the impact Coleman Hawkins had on developing sax players of the time and Parker was no exception. But on "Lady Be Good" the similarities to Lester Young are uncanny. Lester was young Charlie's hero and the influence is evident. On "I Found a New Baby," "Moten Swing" and "Honeysuckle Rose" the strong tone and powerful lines foreshadow the Charlie Parker to come. This collection of tunes has been preserved in Early Bird (Spotlite 120, \$10.98 list) and document the missing link between the development of



Jay McShann is scheduled to play the Kansas City Jazz Festival August 24.

the Kansas City style and its impostance to

For the next six months the band toured throughout the area, gaining fans and honing its chops. In the spring of '41 the McShann or-chestra finally got a contract to cut eight sides for Decca. Just before the band was to depart

pete's sake a drummer that sits down when he

plays. Next thing you know they'll be putting

a Putt Putt Golf Course down at 18th and Vine

That's what these kinds of things lead to.

for its session, McShann caught a yound vocalist named Walter Brown at a Kansas City nightspot and invited him to accompany the troupe to Dallas for the recordings. This collaboration produced a number of hits and continued until McShann was drafted in 1944.

(continued on page 9)

## Local boys make rain

by Danny Joe Dean

The first time I saw the Rainmakers they weren't called the Rainmakers. They weren't even called Steve. Bob & Rich. They were Steve. Bob and Dave and they were playing on the steps outside the Art Institute for free. Their long sets consisted mostly of stripped-down Beatles covers, and that, coupled with their energetic delivery and simply three-man sound. made the dancing and listening a lot of fun. In the six years since, they've traded Dave for Rich and won over nearly every young adult in Heart o America. Their road has taken them to small towns, colleges and big cities. Now they've signed a real live recording contract and landed smack in the lap of corporate rock, complete with A&R consultants, label reps and a rock video

Gone are the subtle one-liners hidden in their cover tunes, the stand-up drum kit and the maching vintage mics. They've been replaced with a major label deal and a commercial endorsement from Miller Beer. Also missing are singer Bob Walkenhors's theatrics with a snare drum, that being replaced by a real drummer (Pat Tomek) with a real drum set and a stool. Of course it would be silly to call a quartet Steve, Bob & Rich & Pat is a

bit much). So someone came up with the Rainmakers—someone from their new label. PolyGram. Probably the same guy that said they should add a real grummer.



Steve, Bob and . . . I mean, the Rainmakers

Listen. I'm not against change. I'm glad the As aren't here anymore. I just don't like the idea of a big record company muscling up to a small local band, one that was just fine before the execs got here telling the band members they've got to get a new name. a slick sound and for

On the other hand there's the distinct possibility that Steve, Bob & Rich were tired of playing frat parties at K State and wanted to move on to bigger and better things. At their official unveiling a few nights ago at Parody Hall, the new Rainmakers, their new label and hordes of

old fans welcomed each other. If was quite a homecoming, Parody Hall being more or less their home base in KC. The whole show was at the same time nostaigic and fresh. The Rainmakers sound is basically the same rock and roll that Steve. Bob & Rich used to sweat out in one solid night-long set. A lot of the tunes are the same. They still do 'Big Fat Blonde,' but now there's a cleaner edge. And with the addition of Pat. Bob, who's got one of the best pop/rock voices around, is freed up to be even more of a front man than before. All in all, the changes work.

The band pulls off a solid effort despite the label's intervention. It's another catch 22. Without the label's support there would be no album and without the band there would be no potential chart husters for the label to promote. The only part of this whole deal that smells is the regionalism, which was played up at PolyGram's insistence. Supposedly an early suggestion for a new name was something like the Trumans. I hope that's just a bad rumor. Otherwise the record business is in worse shape than anyone thought. Along similar lines, their debut album (due out in early August) has a Thomas Hart Benton painting on the cover and a couple of the tunes which deal specifically with KC (continued on page 9)

## PETER CASE

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> Robert Palmer New York Times





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## Mail

#### **Bad news revisited**

I would like to let you know how wholeheartedly in agreement I am with the piece in your July issue entitled "Now the bad news," Recently I moved away from Kansas City and one of the better things that moved with me was my subscription to KC Pitch, but now the KC Pitch is not what it used to be. It was my hope to be able to do mail order business with PennyLane guided by Leroi's fine reveiws and all around good tast, BUT NOOOO!

Somehow we got stuck with Shapiro, would shafted be a better description!? His reviews suck! Even if you let him recommend dog food you are not safe: lots of dead dogs the ASPCA on your ass.

I do not know if I can change the world, but I would like to improve my little corner of it. PLEASE drop Shapiro and rediscover some of your journal's previous taste and my business!

Your concerned customer, J. Michael Galvin Belleville, IL.

#### **Rumor monger**

I hear Billy Idol is coming to town. Do you know anything at all about this or is it just a sad rumor? Also, I'd like to know about more KC bands like Bishop Steel and Vyper.

Betty

#### A note of thanks

I couldn't have prayed for a better review Thank you for your wonderful support. Jazz is good for the soul and so are vou!

Best wishes. Ida McBeth

#### Metal monger

In response to Metal Mongral's letter (and the Big news) last month (July), ALL RIGHT! Let us see Vyper, Avalanche, Fortress, Bishop Steel, The Front, Shock, Donnie and the Rock, Harlow and Banshee.

K. Manning

#### From west Texas

As usual I received my Pitch on time, but this time it was forwarded to my new address. I have been transferred to far west Texas for at least one more year and eleven months. I would like to continue receiving the KC Pitch if it is possible. I have been an avid reader for almost three years, ever since I discovered PennyLane, I will always continue to support PennyLane, especially now that I am in El Paso. You wouldn't believe the record shops here. I will be in KC this summer and fall, so by sending me the Pitch you will keep me current and direct me as to which albums to buy when in KC.

Henry Mendoza, Jr El Paso, TX

#### Salvation monger

The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. Whosoever is not found written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire. The wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Ask Jesus Christ to save you right now. Homosexuality is perversion by choice. It is a horrible sin. Repent!

Hanover Parsons, KS

#### Number 10 in your program,



number 1 in vour heart.

Go get 'em Dick!

#### Classifieds

Send your classified to KC Pitch, 4128 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111, or drop it off at the counter at PennyLane. It's free.

Mr. Joe's Fantasy Island Barber Shop, haircuts/professional styling for men or women. Haircuts \$6.50. 4718 Troost, Joseph D'Angelo, proprietor.

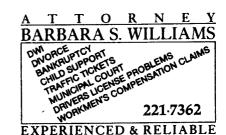
We need a good drummer! We are "The Fayz" T-40, '60s and original music. We're very serious about having a fun, Jucrative occupation. Call Brian at 561:5725.

Hey! ANDERSONS, come back. Mondays just aren't the same and

## KC PITCH

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## Avenue reviews

Last month the Pitch published several letters to the editor regarding my reviews. Neither of the two writers were particularly appreciative of my critical efforts. One letter simply began: "Fuck Shapiro"-powerful, direct and to the point. The other writer was a bit more comprehensive in his criticism. This writer stated that he wouldn't accept my recommendation for dog food. All I can say is that I hope he finds some one else to recommend his dog food before the poor dog starves to death.

Now that we've dealt with what's gone by, let's turn our attention to the new releases, which, I'm happy to report, represent a marked improvement over the work reviewed last month.

Knocked Out Loaded CBS 40439, \$9.98 list

Side one of Dylan's latest is a bit of a disappointment but side two is a knockout. The second side opens with "Brownsville Girl," an 11-minute epic which Dylan wrote with actor/ playwright Sam Shepard. It captures the majesty of Dulan and is an eloquent testimonial to America's recent past. This one is followed with "Got My Mind Made Up," co-written with Tom Petty and played with obvious enthusiasm.



The record closes with a cut Dylan wrote with that even on the weakest of Dylan's albums there is always one extraordinary song that reaffirms his unique genius. And while there is other strong material on this LP, "Under Your Spell" is the absolute stunner, ranging as it does through '40s non sensibilities to gospel and r&h

and closing with yet another Dylan lyrical irony. Knocked Out Loaded is not a great Dylan album. (Something of its diversity reminds me a bit of Self Portrait.) But there is only one Bob Dylan and this release is a worthwhile addition to an amazing body of work

#### Live for Life (various artists) IRS 5731, \$8.98 list

This LP is a compilation of previously unreleased and live tracks donated by a group of artists to raise money for the AMC Cancer Research Center. Some of the inclusions, "Lively Up Yourself" by Bob Marley (a cancer victim), "Ages of You" by R.E.M. and "Tenderness" by General Public are absolutely first rate and the remaining material is generally above average. Certainly the cause is important and this is a nice way to add to your listening pleasure while at the same time making a contribution. Recommended.

#### Eurythmics

RCA 5847, \$9.98 list

Dave Stewart is simply one of the hottest of pop's current practitioners. He knows how to make music that sounds good on '80s FM radio and he is certainly a talented man. While the early recordings by this band were really only Dave, his synthesizers, the marvelous Annie Lennox and the miracle of the modern recor ding studio, this release was recorded by a real band. The results are great. The textural variety of the different cuts and the interplay of different players makes this the most appealing Eurythmics' record I can remember. I particularly like the lyrical message of "Missionary Man," which seems to be hit bound.

#### Gordon Lightfoot East of Midnight

WB 25482, \$8.98 list

On one of my recent and many visits to the record store I wound up in line behind a customer who was buying this record because he "hadn't bought a new Lightfoot record in a long time? Well, I regret to inform him that Gordon sounds just like he did 20 years ago, dated

#### The Dream Syndicate

Out of the Grey Big Time 10022, \$9.98 list

This LA-based band, a clear descendant of the aesthetic of the Velvet Underground, has attracted my interest since I first discovered them several years ago. They have a tendency to allow their guitar-driven attack to lapse into grandiose excess every now and again, but they are tapped into the core energy at the heart of rock and roll that fuels all the really great rock bands. They do know how to drive when it's time to drive. The band is also distinguished by two powerful vocalists, each possessed with an unusual and compelling voice. They have trimmed some of the obvious excesses of their prior releases and come up with a record that

#### Peter Cetera

WR 25474 \$8 98 list

This month's nominee for the worst use of vinyl in the history of plastic.

#### Rick Nelson

Memphis Sessions Epic 40388, \$8.98 list

Way back in the early days of rock, when television was black and white and the idea of music for kids by kids was an innovative concept. Rick Nelson was a real force in making the music respectable. But probably because America had watched him grow up in its living rooms, he has never received critical acknowledgement, at least until it was time to write a sad recent obituary. Acknowledged or not, Rick Nelson had a genuine feeling for rock and roll, rockabilly and country and he performed it with sincerity and skill. The tracks which comprise this recording were cut in the winter of '78-'79, but are just now being released after some studio workover. This LP is about as enjoyable a record as I have heard this year. Like most of Rick's work, it lies easy on the turntable and evokes a warm smile anytime you feel

#### Peter Case

Geffen 24105, \$8.98 list

A winner. Just a little off center, just a little wonderful. Case, who was originally a street musician and a founding member of the Nerves and a Plimsoul, has joined forces with T-Bone Burnett as producer and made an engaging



straight-ahead clean folk-tinged rock record. It's only after several listenings that you realize that the lurics have a kind of Twilight Zone surreal quality, a kind of edginess, a kind of mystery. Case is indebted to a large group of LA's top musicians for the generally fine sound of this release. There's not a bad cut, but outstanding "More than Curious," "Old Blue Car" and ico Water"

#### Joan Armatrading

Sleight of Hand A&M 5130, \$8.98 list

Honesty and intelligence are two ingredients that generally indicate quality material, and both elements have consistently illuminated Joan's work. This time out she has produced herself and the result is a harder-edged, more contemporary sound. Her work has always had an undeniable intensity both in the poetry of her lyrical imagery and the openness of her performance. Sleight of Hand is no exception. If you are already a fan, you won't be disappointed.

If you've not sampled this highly original artist before, this LP might be a good place to begin.

#### Steve Winwood Back in the High Life

Island 25448, \$8.98 list

From the earliest days of his recording career (first with the Spencer Davis Group and then with Traffic) Winwood has always been possessed of a special aura. Part of this aura has to do with his well-established instrumental talents, primarily on keyboards, but a large aspect is attributed to his achingly pure, clear voice, which has always been instantly recognizable. About ten years ago he commenced what has become a less-than-prolific solo career. His 1980 release Arc of a Diver was a grand testimonial to what one supremely talented artist and his synthesizers could create. 1982's Talking Back to the Night was just more of the same. Now, after a wait of four years, Steve is back with a vengence. While a majority of the sounds on this release emanate from electronic instrumentation, on most tracks he is also aided by other live musicians who aid in opening the often-restricitive confines of pure electronic sound. I can think of few others who use the new instrumentation with more taste or creativity, but what makes Back in the High Life such a fine release are the Winwood vocals: soulful pure and relevatory. You believe that Steve

believes in the messages he imparts. Each of the eight tracks is an adventure in the better aspects of '80s techno-sounds.

#### **CD** corner

Carl Perkins, Dixie Fried Charly import, \$16.99

Made up of Perkins' original, seminal recordings for the Sun label, the 24 tracks cover the obvious "Blue Suede Shoes" to the unknown "Lend Me Your Comb." But the engineers who created this CD had the time and the talent to clearly surpass all previous compilations of the great rock guitarist's contributions. They never sounded this good before. This disc is simply

#### Richard and Linda Thompson,

Shoot out the Lights

Hannibal 1303, \$15.99

Originally released in 1982, this, the last joint effort of two of the least known but most talented performers to ply their trade in the rock venue is nothing less than a masterpiece. Fueled by the emotional upheaval of a crumbling personal relationship, the Thompsons created a record of awsome, frightening power. The record has been near the top of my personal favorites ever since its release and the CD has a clean spacious sound that makes it even bet-

#### Brian Eno. Thursday Afternoon EG EGDC 4, \$16.99

Another excursion into Eng's environmental music. Thursday Afternoon is a single 61-minute composition written expressly for the new medium of the compact disc. It is totally electronic instrumental music that is totally captivating and beautiful. Great for quiet Sunday mornings as well as Thursday afternoons, this record is as sure an aural trip to serenity as anuthing I have heard. Different, but highly recommended.

Tina Turner, Private Dancer Capitol 46041, \$14.99

A great LP is an even better CD.

#### Bruce Springsteen, Born to Run CBS 33795; \$14,99

The Boss' 1975 magnum opus that was the first real expression of New Jersey power rock is a must in any responsible rock collection. Unfortunately the CD is a butchery. Pass

#### Bob Dylan, Highway 61 Revisited CBS 9189, \$14.99

At this point, referring to classic Dylan may be inherently redundant, but what other term can you apply to a recording that includes, among others, "Like a Rolling Stone," "From a Buick 6," "Ballad of a Thin Man" and "Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues." Like they say, "they just don't make them like that anymore." But they do reissue them in the CD format. If it's possi ble, this one is better than the original.

-Bill Shapiro

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## Jazz Update

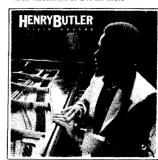
Leading off this list of joyful new arrivals are Freddie Hubbard and Woody Shaw, with their new joint venture Double Take (Blue Note 85121, \$9.98 list). These veteran trumpeters offer a smorgasboard of jazz appetizers on this LP. ranging from hardbop to mainstream and

The bop appears on Fats Navarro's composition "Boperation," with Shaw and Hubbard adeptly disecting the complicated changes. Moving toward more subdued melodies, "Lotus Blossom" finds the trumpeters flowering with a Latin beat, while Lee Morgan's brilliant tune "Desert Moon" shines on brightly

A darker mood is evoked by Hubbard on his stirring memorial to the late Booker Little. "Lament for Booker" is a fitting tribute for one of the more promising young horn men that, like so many others, barely had made his unique voice heard before leaving us. This superb album is a testimonial to the longevity of Shaw and Hubbard. Double Take, proving these two masters' contribution to the modern jazz scene, should be considered for a Grammy.

Another horn man-flugelhorn to be precise-is local legend Mike Metheny, who has just landed a contract with the reactivated Impulse label. His debut LP Day In-Night Out (MCA/Impulse 5755, \$8.98 list) features brother Pat on guitar and another local luminary, Tommy Ruskin, on drums. Several tracks that are particularly appealing include "Like the Ocean," a glistening ballad, Charlie Parker's bop fireball "Segment" and Methenu's own dreamy composition "Lakeview Ballad." This number features the unveiling of Metheny's

new high-tech horn, the Steiner Electronic Voice Instrument or EVI for short.



Another debut outing that oscillates freely pianist Henry Butler's Fivin' Around (MCA/Impulse 5707, \$8.98 list). Butler is another astounding musician that happens to he blind. On this LP he fronts an all-star lineup that includes Billy Higgins, Charlie Haden and Freddie Hubbard. Butler takes full advantage of this stellar backing by doing some awesome soloing of his own. Some of the album's highlights include "Improvisation of an Afghanistan Theme," "The Eastern Connection" and "My Coloring Book." This entire album contains no low points; it amounts to one astonishing effort. Henry Butler may be ar unknown, but Fivin' Around will make us all

-Bill Marks

## **Blues lines**

In June of 1964, Bill Barth, John Fahey and Henry Vestine (of Canned Heat) were in Tunica, Mississippi looking for Skip James. They described their quarry to some people in a barbershop and were told that he might be "that crazy old drunk hollerin' that he's a musical genius." They found Skip James in the Tunica Hospital and hurried him off to that year's Newport Folk Festival. James appeared on stage in a black suit, looking gaunt and a little hesitant. His eyes were unfocused beneath a broadbrimmed preacher's hat



pearance. Beginning with his signature piece, "Devil Got My Woman," he paired his falsetto voice against a harsh, open-tuned arpeggio guitar. The resulting sound was as stunning then as it was 30 years prior, when the Paramount Record Company scouts had stopped him two erses into his song and pronounced that he had a tremendous hit on his hands.

James recorded in Grafton, Wisconsin in February of 1931. Unfortunately, the great depression obliterated both the record company and his career. He spent much of the next three decades as a tractor driver.

Skip James' life and art are the purest examples of an eccentric producing a beautiful invention. Although he spent years organizing choir groups for his father, a preacher, he later rejected religious society as "too high falootin". Similarly, he rejected the juke joint lifestyle as too low down. In his early days he even hired bodyguards to accompany him to his barrel-

James' music was probably as strange to his contemporaries as it is, in a different way, to listeners today, who are accuste thuthms. James finger picks his guitar in delicate, elaborate patterns which many listeness find compelling. These patterns seem to stand still because the rhythm is so deep. His piano work is characterized by nervous rhythms, inexplicable pauses and tumbling cascades of notes that threaten to destroy any semblance of order. He is probably closer to Thelonious Monk than any blues pianist.

The subtle, overpowering and complex rhythm confronts the average listener with something that is not simple to understand. It strikes a precise balance between delicacy and ornamentation dependent upon a consciou artistic approach. In repeated listenings, his records more easily reveal their beauty.

Two of Skip James' albums, Devil Got My

Woman (Vanguard 79273, \$8.98 list) and Skip James Today (Vanguard 79219, \$8.98 list) are solos. A third, Great Bluesmen at Newport (Vanguard 25/26, \$10.98 list), features part of his historic comback concert. It would be hard to choose among them. The live album is an essential listening experience. Devil Got My Woman is mostly guitar, while Today features a lot of piano and also has the tune "I'm So Glad," which Cream made into a big hit. James royalties for this song came to \$6,000 and just about paid his medical expenses when he died in 1969. Pick up all three.

Ronnie Earl purveys the best in big band blues. The mainstay guitarist for Roomful of Blues latest solo effort is They Call Me Mr. Earl (Black Top 1033, \$8.98 list). As usual, he goes after lesser-known '50s r&b stylists. Thus we have lke Turner's guitar licks on "Waiting for My Chance" and Guitar Slim's from "Why Should I Feel So Bad?" Vocalist Sugar Ray Norcia is most effective on the Hookeresque "You've Got Me Wrong." Harp work is good here too. The best cut is "Let Me Love You, Babu," where Earl bends and mashes that poor pentatonic blues scale mercilessly. The album captures a blues dance party better than many efforts by other groups. Recommended.

John Redmond

## On the fringe

Every once in a while, it is refreshing to hear music unencumbered by lackluster vocal performances or laden with banal lurics. Recently three artists working with traditional as well as modern instruments, drawing upon a variety of influences, have released albums with little or no vocals. All three are examples of musical sound alone, conveying emotions and ideas

The current album from the English band Felt, Let the Snakes Crinkle Their Heads to Death (UK Creation CRE LP009, \$9.98 list), despite its unwieldy title, is a pleasant offering of pop instrumentals. Employing a very simple four-piece lineup of guitar/bass/key-boards/ drums. Felt produces some gratifying music. The more overtly pop numbers, in particular 'Song for William S. Harvey" and "Sapphire Mansions," possess bouncy, cheery tempos and melodies that alternate guitar work by Lawrence and organ/electric piano solos by Martin Duffy. Both Lawrence and Duffy play relatively unadorned patterns which nonetheless carry the feelings of each song.

Romantic strains crop up on "Indian Scrip tures" as its drifting guitar chords accentuate the piano melody, while "The Palace" is similar, but structured in a more stately, regal fashion. In a totally different mode, "The Seventeenth Century" features genuine psychedelic echo and effects. In their most adventurous phase the band offers "The Nazca Plain" with its haunting, almost other-worldly melody and "Viking Dress," a brilliantly crafted song which, from its quiet, pastoral beginnings, weaves a charming mystique.

The entire LP is a nicely understated affair. But there is a critical brickbat to be tossed, albeit not at the artistry but the packaging. To charge a full L.P's price for under 19 minutes worth of music amounts to highway robbery. Here's hoping Felt's next release delivers more music for the money.

The newest LP from Allan Holdsworth. Atavachron (Enigma ST-73203, \$8.98 list), is a liberal dollop of high-energy fusion. However, this work has him setting aside the guitar to experiment with a Synthaxe, the guitar and synthesizer. Still, Holdsworth's distinctive style, which has earned him praise in both the jazz and rock worlds, comes



It is a bit of a jolt to hear the characteristic solo on "Non Brewed Condiment," replete with masterfully executed runs, performed not on a guitar but the Synthaxe. On several songs Holdsworth appears to be exploring the limitations of the Synthaxe, as on "The Dominant Plague" where he searches for the more unrestrained, manic possibilities of the instrument, creating a fury of sound. But Holdsworth manipulates it most effectively on the title track, casting it in an unobtrusive role and saving his best playing for the guitar.

nd there is some unbelievable guitar work on the album. How he mangaes to move his fingers across a fretboard so fast remains a mystery on "Looking Glass," which contains killer runs and riffs by Holdsworth propelled by Tony Williams' furious drumming. Abandoning his new found toy for a bit. Holdsworth returns to the guitar on "Funnels," dazzling with his technique as he cuts loose on his solos and then fades back to merge with the rest of the band.

As a departure, "All Our Yesterdays," inspired by a Star Trek episode, is a lush, sweeping song with some sweet vocals by Rowanne Mark and

an improvisational exchange between Holdsworth's Synthaxe and the percussion. Although the album is not as head turning as his work with U.K. or Gong, Atavachron is above-average fusion. Technophobes can rest easy: there is still sufficient human elements and talents abundantly evident.

About once a year, Anthony Phillips puts together a collection of songs as part of his Private Parts and Pieces series. Number six in this series is Ivory Moon (PVC 8946, \$8.98 list), a selection of classically-influenced piano pieces.

Phillips, who began his career as the guitarist for Genesis, has spent considerable time honing and perfecting his skills upon the acoustic and electric guitar, so it is somewhat surprising to see what an accomplished pianist he is. His style is neither flashy nor ostentatious, lending itself better to the recital hall than the rock arena.

The most notable nod to the classics occurs on "Rapids," full of the grand elegance associated with classical piano compositions. Another song derived from the realm is "Winter's Thaw," which, after its subdued entry, spotlights some forceful, dynamic passages of activity. But some songs originate from other sources entirely.

Both "Tara's Theme" and "Moonfall" are more in a pop vein, with their structure and straightforward, uncluttered melodies. Phillips really mixes styles as he summons all his command of the piano on the lengthy "Suite: Sea Dogs Motoring," a four-movement composition. seguing from one impression to the next effortlessly, expressing everything from grave intensity to frolicking playfulnes

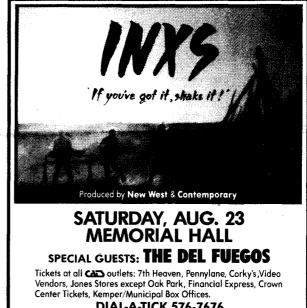
The esoteric music on Ivory Moon is generally relaxing and soothing without being somnolent. Phillips exudes enough vibrancy to engage the listener and not induce sleep.

One of the acknowledged masters of the rock instrumental is Mike Oldfield and his latest 12inch single "shine" (UK Virgin VS863-12 \$6.98 list) is a rousing collaboration with Jon Anderson. Both Oldfield's playing and Anderson's vocals dovetail nicely as the song brims with unique, multi-tracked delivery. Despite some lapses into cliched and trite lyrics, "Shine" is an extremely enjoyable confection. On the B side, "The Path" is symbolic Oldfield and although very melodic, not very memorable.

Also of interest, a couple of items have finally seen domestic release after some time as im ports. These are the **Pogues** first album *Red Roses for Me* (Enigma ST-73225, \$8.98 list) and Peter Hammill's newest, Skin (Enigma ST-73206, \$8.98 list).

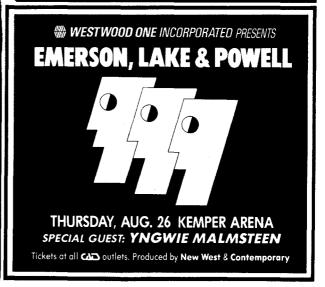
-Larry Fry





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## Joe Bob goes to the drive-in

by Joe Bob Briggs, Drive-In Movie Critic of Grapevine, Texas

You ever notice how nobody ever has anything good to say about child abuse?

Maybe it's my imagination, but I just don't think the newspapers are tellin BOTH SIDES OF THE STORY. Like, for example, if I was to take a 10-year-old kid who was doing can openers off the high board and gettin chlorine in my Juarez Sunrise cocktail, DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF A PAPER UMBRELLA, and if I was to like take this kid and stuff him into a six-foot stack of life preservers and then throw him in the deep end and offer the other kids \$5 if they could push him down to the drain-it might be hard for you to believe, but I've just committed a felony UNLESS I CAN PROVE HE'S MY LITTLE BROTHER.

Little brothers can be permanently maimed under Texas law without any penalty whatsoever, as long as you'll remember this rule When your mother gets home, say, "Why would I do somethin like that? What's my motive for somethin like that?" Parents always expect a motive. There's not any motive, but that don't matter, cause they'll buy this.

OK, here's another example. Kid named Drew is chunkin rocks at the tires on my mintcondition 74 Toronado and some of em are gettin up under the chasis and makin a terrible sound. What would you do?

Tire tool? We're talkin 20 to 30 hard time Hit-and-run? I'll put you down for 35.

No, you only have one alternative in a case like this. It's to grab the kid by his ratty haircut, put your lips so close to his ear he can feel your breath in the crevices of his brain, and say the following words:

"Do that again and I'll remove it."

Now one thing you need to keep in mind. NEVER, under any circumstances, should you define what "it" is. If the little weenie says, "Remove what?" which he probably won't cause he'll be too scared, just drop him in the nearest Dempster Dumpster and say, "Wait here till I get back and I'll show you.

You see the beauty here? Instant results. No osecution, INTELLIGENT child abuse

There's only one exception to this, and the est way to explain it is to ask the question: Have you ever been sittin at the movie and a kid behind you starts kickin your chair and sayin, "What's he doing? What'd they say? Can I have a quarter? I don't like this popcorn," and "This place is grody"? My personal advice would be to forget the above and go ahead and risk capital punishment. I have a good lawyer, can probly get you off. If not, it'll be worth it anyway.

Speaking of justifiable homicide, Arnold the Barbarian just keeps gettin better and better, and I'm gonna go ahead and say it here: After Terminator, Commando, Red Sonia and now Raw Deal, Arnold is the No. 1 Drive-In Actor in the World. Forget Sly Rocky Rambo Cobra. Forget the two Chucks, Norris and Bronson. The guy that's really doing it, year in, year out, is the A-Man. One more drive-in hit and he'll already be eligible for the Drive-In Hall of Fame

Raw Deal has more plot in it than Arnold's ever attempted before, and it even includes about 100 words of Arnold dialogue, compared to his usual 10, and it has a FULL THREE MINUTES of pec-poppin and deltoid-dippin and tricep-trippin in front of the mirror, but

here's the best part: Arnold SUCCESSFULLY speaks the follow-

"He molested, murdered and mutilated her." Arnold finally got the M-sound down. He worked out five, six hours a day until he got ready for that one line of dialogue, and he did it. Sort of.

Anyhow, Arnold is a small-town sheriff with a wife that whines all the time and gets drunk in the afternoon and throws chocolate cakes and wants to move back to New York, only first Arnold has to go undercover and infiltrate the Chicago Mafia so that Darren McGavin can get revenge for the murder of his son and the cancellation of his series. So Arnold goes up there and gets a job workin for the world's

through a building like in Commando and takes Kathryn Harrold home with him even though she's a drunk bimbo and busts up a female impersonator bar and destroys three guys in a boutique and then packs up 18,000 rounds of automatic weapons ammo, jumps in his con-



Arnold the Barbarian demonstrates high-powered-rifle-crushing in Raw

vertible, and puts "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" in the tape deck. Pretty soon, we got

Forty dead bodies. No breasts. Two quarts blood. Three motor vehicle chases, including the best of 86. Arnold destroys an entir building by himself. Exploding refinery. Schoolbus machine-gun attack. Maniac SWAT Team. Steam shovel attack. Gratuitous Rolling Stones. Boutique Fu. Coke Machine Fu. Cake Fu. Drive-In Academy Award nominations for Darren McGavin, for his "oh God I can walk again" scene; Kathryn Harrold, for saying "The only way you'll end up lying next to me, Max, is it e get run over by the same car"; and Arnold the Barbarian, for saying "You should not drink and bake" and "Who do you think I look like-Dirty Harry?

Clamp on a cheap bolo tie made by filthy rich Indians with big thumbs. The Joe Bob Brigs Summer Vacation Guide:

1. THE LEWD, CRUDE, NASTY DUDE RANCH: Located in the wilds of Wickenburg, Ariz.. it's that "special retreat for those special little friends of yours in flamingo shirts looking for a place to "swish away the summer" according to their rights and privileges as Americans to do any disgusting thing they want to with their bodies, if you know what I mean and I hope you do. The lewd, crude, nasty dude himself is a guy named Leotis who comes out of his bunkhouse once a day to administer bullwhip unishment and perform the "bucking bronco fandango" (no kiddies allowed)

2. VELVET VISTA VERDE VALLEY: Five miles east of Bakersfield on state route 178, this one is perfect for that "budget" vacation. Fifty dollars for six people for two weeks (room and board not included). Complimentary irrigation materials available on request. How can they do it? Easy. They have no horses. All recrea tion is goat riding. (Goat-riding lessons available at a modest charge, but don't try Goat Peak on the first day. Head for Cabrito Training Hill.)

3. BLUE LAGOON GUEST RANCH: At this secluded mom-and-pop hideaway near Bandera, Texas, each room is papered with glossies of Brooke Shields and, for the kinky, Brooke Shields' mother. For a surcharge of \$200 per week, Brooke will personally come to your room and recite lines from Endless Love to prove she was in that movie. For a surcha of \$300 per week, Christopher Adkins will NOT

4. THE ROY-AND-DALE LOVE RANCH: Try this one for your golden wedding anniversary, specially if you're tryin to put the old whinny back into the marriage. At the Love Ranch 28 miles west of Pie Town, N.M., on U.S. 60, the sky is orange all day, just like in Roy's movies. This is because the ranch is part of the White Sands Missile Range nuke-testing facility, home of the rarely seen iridescent antelope and the strobe gopher. Ladies: Don't let Roy help you onto your horse under any circumstances. Trust me

5. RANCHO ENCHILADA: There are actually two Rancho Enchiladas operated by the Mexican government. Make sure you get a booking at the Monterrey branch. NOT the one in Ciudad Mordida, which is located in the jungles of Yucatan. Many people make this mistake every year and we're expecting to hear from all of them any time now. What can you say about the Rancho Enchilada that hasn't been said already? It's the granddaddy of them all, the Hasta La Vasta, home of the all-youcan-eat Bean Plate. Remember to stop in Juarez three days on the way back. You'll avoid the

Speaking of people that look like a grilled fajita, I just saw Demons and once again, the Eyetalians are doin it to us. Just when we think we know what the word "gore" means, some Evetalian comes along and says, "I bet you never saw somebody do THIS on the screen, and so we got, once again, the most disgusting movie in the history of movies. Automatic four

We should known this one had potential, cause it's directed by Lamberto Bava, who's the son of the late great Eyetalian master, Mario Bava, the guy who made "Black Sunday" in 62 and went on to impale every single body part on screen in the years before he croked from drinkin too much of that drillin mud they call coffee over there. Anyhow, Lamberto had this idea of "What if you went to see i and some zombies BRICKED YOU IN while you were watchin the movie, and pretty soon they started clawin the audience into linguini dles and there was NOTHIN YOU COULD DO?" That's basically the idea, but I'm not telling nothin else about it because there's absolutely no way to tell what happens next in this flick and so it satisfies the first rule of Drive-In Classics: Anybody can die at any moment.

One breast. Twenty-six dead bodies. Two hangings. Seventeen gallons blood. One motor vehicle chase. Slime spewing. Euchall clawing. Projection-booth smashing. Razor slicing. Boyfriend eating. Finger chomping. Classic transformation scene, where a demon crawls up out of a guy's back. Bloody zit popping. Purple jugular vein tumor throbbing. Hand rolls. Head hacking Gratuitous cokeheads. Coke Machine Fu. Yamaha Fu. Grapple Hook Fu. Drive-In Academy Award nomination for Lamberto Bava, the kid director, who wrote the line "It's

not the movie-it's the THEATER!"

And we do have a new record: 97 on the

Joe Bob says check it out.

#### Joe Bob's Mailbag

Communist Alert! "SANTA CLARA, Calif. (UPI) - Indians picketed Santa Clara University for allowing mud wrestling. The dirt for a fraternity-sponsored mud wrestling tournament at the Jesuit-run university came from a sacred Indian burial ground, picketing tribal descendants charged." That's OK. The guys at Sigma Phi Epsilon promised to mud wrestle in the nude so they won't get the sacred slime dirty. Weekly Wayne Newton Report: two nights with the Atlanta Symphony, then up to Resorts International in Atlantic City. Need some Jersey support. To discuss the meaning of life with Joe or to get some free junk or the "We Are the Weird" newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, P.O. Box 33, Dallas, Texas 75221.

DEAR JOE BOB: I'm wondering if you might want to join me and a few friends in a little game of Crack The Whip Across America. I'm almost sure of the media picking up on this one. Better days. ROBERT HOLDRIDGE. CAR-ROLLTON, TEXAS.

DEAR BOB: Only if you can get Phil Donahue to stand at the end of the line.

DEAR JOE BOB: I won a bet after your "we Are the Weird" fiasco. Everyone said you were history. I knew different. I studied history. The lives of many Great Men. In not a single case has a Great Man compromised his manly typing (in a weekly syndicated column) in order to coddle provincial snivelers. I am glad you didn't call the picketers provincial, though, at least in print. A Great Man knows where to

I wholly approve of "We Are the Weird." Please send me a copy so I will know what it Send me everything your budget allows.

Yours at 24 fps, DAVID SWIFT, JACKSON,

DEAR DAVE: I would never call people pro vincial simply because they exercised their Godgiven constitutional right to be jerks.

DEAR JOE BOB: We understand that members of the academic community in Shreveport take pleasure in degrading you and drive-in movies (i.e., Caddo Magnet High School Debate Squad). Their un-American acvities made us wonder why you don't move to Alexandria where your talents could be correctly appreciated.

As members of the Bolton High School Debate Squad, we look forward to the Friday Times and being able to quote you as a reliable expert of American films. THE BOLTON HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE SOUAD

DEAR DEBATERS: Pro or Con-the drink-



Starring in the Demons title role is this slime glopola specimen who studied with Brando; notice the forehead.

ing age in the state of Louisiana should be red to 14 so American youth can learn to use alcohol in a responsible manner while still under the influence and care of responsible adults and before they go off to LSU and get nekkid.

DEAR JOE BOB BRIGGS: I wish peace to all peoples, races and creeds and to whatever one soul does with another sexually or other wise in their agreed upon space of privacy. WE ARE SOCIALIZED ENOUGH. The areas of the heart, i.e., forgiveness, seem to be ready to be addressed, the healing through recognizing our good in being and then opening this to larger groups outside of ourselves in seeing the good of all. My mother used to always say, "LOOK FOR THE GOOD IN SOMEONE, IT'S EASY TO SEE FAULT OR THE BAD." What is that ad part? How do we address it?-NANO MAN. SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR NANO NANO: Address it in care of Abigail Van Buren, 4900 Main, Kansas City, Mo. 64112.

DEAREST JOE BOB BRIGGS: I went to prom last weekend at a place up north past the Gemini D.I. They searched my purse at the door for booze and frisked my boyfriend in a way (if you know what I mean) that almost left him begging for more. They didn't have a live band, just some recorded tribal bass beats (except once they played Phil Collins, which I thought was mightu white of em at the time).

All the guys wore monkey suits and all the girls wore dresses that looked like a cross between The Jetsons and Gone with the Wind. Anyway, what I wanted to ask you was if the movie Prom Night could be more horrifying than this?-JULIE, DALLAS

DEAR JULIE: Nope. The only flick that e comes close is "Two Thousand Maniacs." I'd count "Planet of the Apes," but I'm sure your boyfriend looks better in a monkey suit than Roddy McDowall.

DEAR JOE BLOB BRIGGS: You are the vellow-belliedest, low-downest, underhandest, most sorriest excuse for a human bean this side of the Greater Dinuba drive-in.

Yes, them's fightin' words, but they ain't nuthin compared to the GOOBAR wrath you have brung down upon your cruddy self by statin' as you did that our hero Bo Svenson is a hasbeen.

We GOOBARS (Good Old Oakies, Beerdrinkers and Rednecks) have as part of our goals in life watching out for pinkos and obvious un-American types like you who cast smarmy shadows on the pure and untainted images of true blue types like our boy, Bo.

For the life of ourselves, we cannot figger how anyone who calls hisself (or in your case, "itself") an American can defame, defile and defuse the man who played that all-American hero, Tennessee's legendary sheriff and self-serving opportunist Buford Pusser in two (count 'em, two) movies

You have carved a spot in the armpit of our clubhouse, Joe Blob, and we are submitting your name for National GOOBAR Poophead of the Year

Until we hear from you, pal, our chapter is using the new GOOBAR slogan:

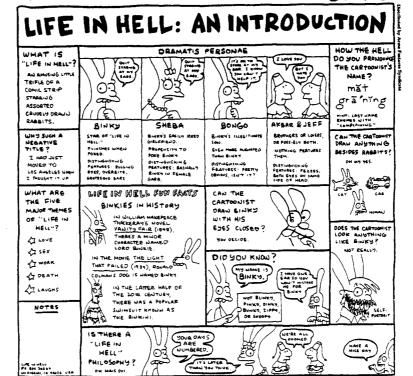
Joe Bob Briggs-FU!!-KATHY YOUNG, GOOBARS ARE FOREVER, STOCKTON, CALIF

DEAR KATHY: I'll apologize just as soon as I tell Joe Don Baker what you said and where you live.

DEAR IMPERIOUS LEADER JOE BOBSKI

LIFE IN HELL

@1986 By MATT GROENING



BRIGGS: This is Secret Agent X-9 reporting.

Mission: Gemini Drive-In

Details: Top secret or don't remember.

I paid to see a movie called Pretty in Pink. Guess what, ABSOLUTELY NO SEX! You can imagine how enraged I was.

Well, they won't trick me with juicy titles nymore. From now on, when I go the Drive-In. I'm gonna come through the exit and pay when I leave. And any more high school love junk is going to be shown to the sound of the Joe Boh Dead in Concert, 'cause I'm gonna take over the radio station that everybody tunes into and put in the tape I illegally made at your overpriced rip-off joke of a show. By the way, when is the next one?-MERCIE SAPHEAD, SECRET AGENT X-9, DALLAS

DEAR MERCIE: Next month. It's called "Pret-

MR. BRIGGS: Throughout your column you have made repeated references to commun when discussing the removal of drive-in movie establishments. Yet, you insist that this is in some way "not good." Drive-in theaters symbolize all of the filth, corruption and decadence prevalent in Western society, and their removal should be viewed as a blessing, not a curse . I therefore DEMAND that you cease using the name of the workers' revolutionary unit with such negative conotation.—PEDRO NOGUERRA, SPAR-TACUS YOUTH LEAGUE, BERKELEY, CALIF

DEAR PEDRO: I love it when you're angry.











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## Classical notes

Palestrina: Missa Papae Marcelli, Tu es Petrus; Allegri: Miserere; others. Choir of Westminster Abbey directed by Simon Preston (Archiv 415 517, \$10.98 list).

The dedicatee of Palestrina's famous mass was a Pope who reigned for a mere three weeks in 1555. Although this would seem to indicate the date of composition, legend has it that this mass was composed as an attempt by Palestrina to prove to that Renaissance Hays Office, the Council of Trent, that music would not profane the liturgy proper. This dates the mass around 1562-63, when the Council turned to matters musical. The Westminster choir gives it an excellent performance here, managing to add a good deal of exuberance to the reverence of the



piece. The songs are clear and well-balanced, one of the best digital choral recordings yet. Archiv's other recording of it, with the Regensburger Domspatzen conducted by Theobald Schrems (from 1961), compares well, though the sound of the German boys differs a good deal from the English boys, the Germans being typically warmer in tone. The older one is more reverent yet very vital; the sound is fuller and warmer, though not as clear. Both records are not too much for any unregenerate Palestrina fanatic, so if you own the older one, don't worry about duplication: it's worth it.

The motet, Tue es Petrus, is also given a forceful rendering here. The choir is controlled and precise but still natural and spontaneous. However, they lack the excitement of an earlier performance of this by the Tolzer Knabenchor on German Harmonia Mundi, coupled with the parody mass of the same name. The Tolz choir, perhaps the finest European boys' choir, brings a vitality to the work not often found in performance. And both of these recordings are more

vital than one from King's in 1984 (on Argo, also with the parody mass), which was subdued and haunting but comparatively restrained.

Certainly the high point of this release is the Allegri Miserere. This is one of the most popular choral pieces in the repertory and the performance here is incredibly beautiful and dramatic. Comparatively, one from King's (1984, on Angel) is down to earth; this one is ethereal, almost mysterious. The choral work is again excellent, something we've come to expect from Simon Preston's conducting. The boy soprano's head-tones are quite breathtaking and wonderful. Three remaining pieces by composers of the same period fill out this marvelous picture of Renaissance choral art. Full texts and notes are included. Highly recommended.

Vaughan Williams, Howells: Choral Works. Choir of King's College, Cambridge directed by Sir David Willcocks. (Argo 414 646, \$7.98, list).

This album of music by two of the finest composers of modern English choral music is a reissue compiled from recordings of the '60s and 70s, with a side devoted to each composer. The first part of the Vaughan Williams side is made up of his Three Shakespeare Songs, The Turtle Dove and The Elizabethan Part-Songs. All of these are given good performances by the boys and men of King's. The Turtle Dove, in particular, is very haunting and lovely. The balance of the side is devoted to Christmas music: "The Blessed Son of God" from Hodie, and the Fantasia on Christmas Carols. The Hodie excerpt is a quiet "Silent Night" piece; the Fantasia is a joyous and exuberant celebration, the London Symphony Orchestra joining the choir here in a marvelous performance. The spirit is

The Howells side is devoted entirely to sacred music: the St. Pauls Service and the Collegium Regale. These are very vivid, exciting works, with a hint of Vaughan Williams' influence, but nonetheless highly individual. The choir, accompanied by Andrew Davis on organ, comes across powerfully. The 10- and 20-year old analog recordings are full and strong. Texts are, included, but no notes. Recommended not only to fans but novices as well.

Monteverdi: 18 Madrigals from the Second Madrigal Book. Collegium Vocale Koln directed by Wolfgang Fromme. CBS Masterworks (IM42131, \$12.98 list).

Claudio Monteverdi was undoubtedly the greatest composer of his time, and his catalogue of works is a continued source of inspiration for the many and varied musicians who undertake

performances of his works. The madrigals on this record, composed in 1590, are very well done here. The mixed vocalists of the Collegium



are up to their usual standards, and they convey the beauty of these pieces convincingly. CBS' digital sound, which can range anywhere from awful to good, is acceptable, but sadly lacks presence—nowhere is there a hint of the church this was recorded in. The voices are fairly clear. However, the surfaces of the LP are far less than good, and a constant plague of thumps and ticks accompanied the music on my copy. Those with CD players should wait for it in that format. Not something I like to see from the industry.

Shostakovich: Symphony #13 Babi Yar, Song Cycles, opp. 143a & 79. Soloists; Concertgebouw Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Bernard Haitink. (London 414 410-1 2 LPs. \$19.98 list).

The 13th Symphony derives its title from the first of the five poems by Yevgeny Yevtushenko set by Shostkouch for orchestra bass choir and bass soloist that comprise the work. The Babi Yar' movement, an examination of the anti-Semitism which culminated in the barbarous murder of 100,000 Jews in the Ukranian ravine of that name in 1941, is a harrowing work. The drama of the piece, with its alternating soloist and chorus (Gentlemen of the Concertgebouw Choir), recalls the agony of a Passion, with bass Marius Rintzler a horified, soul-searching "evangelist." The profound material of this sec-

tion, especially the attacks on anti-Semitism (something of a tacit official policy of the Soviet government), caused more than a little official concern at the work's premiere in 1962 and eventually Shostakovich was forced to modify the text somewhat. The original version, however, is the one performed here.

The subject of Babi Yar is not touched upon in the rest of the symphony. It moves on to "Humour," a jaunty and spirited (not to mention witty) celebration of humor, personified as a gallant folk hero. The third movement, "In the Store," pays tribute to the women of Russia and their enduring spirit. It is solemn and almost dirgelike, with a pervasive mood of quiet desperation.

The fourth movement, "Fears," evokes its titie well, projecting a general unease throughout.
The climax is full of dread and angst; the coda
ends on the uneasiness of before. The final
movement, "A Career," celebrates the individualism of certain heroes (e.g., Galileo and
Toistoy). It contains two particularly delightful
instrumental midsections and a solemn ending,
The coda is absolutely beautiful, if somewhat
ronic, as is much of the work. The excellent
level of performance is maintained throughout,
Haitink's strength and perceptiveness serving the
music well.

The Six Poems of Marina Tsevtaeva. op. 143a, were originally scored for contralto and plano in 1973. Shostakovich prepared this version with orchestral accompaniment in 1974. The poems and their arrangements range from the lamenting to the powerful, from tender love to vivid irony. Soloist Ortrun Wenkel communicates these complex emotions with a satisfying depth of feeling.

The concluding work, From Jewish Folk Poetry, op. 79, depicts a colorful, emotional world with strength, tenderness and, in the last three songs, sharp irony. Again, good vocal work (Wender, soprang Elisabeth Soderstrom, and tenor Ryszard Karcykowskii and strong work together to bring out the varied sentiments of the music.

The digital sound is quite good. The surfaces,

The digital sound is quite good. The surfaces are silent and complete texts and notes are included. One note: the CD edition contains the symphony only. Those with a deep interest in Shostakovich should opt for the complete LP or cassette. All in all, an impressive conclusion to an invaluable series. This one shouldn't be missed.

-Walter Stanford

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## **McShann**

(continued from page 1)

One of Brown's signature vehicles, "Confessin' the Blues," sold more than 500,000 copies and got the band booked into several national venues. Even though the material performed by McShann and his band was not exclusively blues oriented, it was the rhythm and blues material, not the jump swing, that put them inthe spotlight. A number of the tunes from this era are featured on The Early Bird Charlie Parker (1941-1943) (MCA 1338, \$4.98 list). In addition to the band's big hit, the album features some choice Parker solos and the recording debut of Al Hibbler, another McShann discovery. The sessions with Hibbler were made just a month before the war era recording ban and caught the group in high spirits. The four tunes from this session mark the last time the original KC orchestra was recorded. By late '43

the band was in shambles, ravaged by the draft. Of the original members, only Ramey, sax player John Jackson, Walter Brown and McShann remained.

After the war McShann worked on both coasts and recorded for a variety of California labels, most notably several sides with Julia Leedd for Capitol. In LA McShann met Art Tatum. The two frequented concerts and-after hours spots, where they'd trade licks at the piano. It was also at this time that he made another great vocal discovery, that of Jimmy Witherspoon. After Walter Brown left the band, it was Witherspoon who filled his shoes and stayed for four years

In the early '50s McShann was back in Kansas City, enrolled in the Conservatory of Music. He has been working out of KC ever since. Jay first toured Europe in 1969 and instantly

became a favorite of festivals around the world. Today, Jay McShann continues to tour extensively, bringing the Kaycee sound to small clubs and concert halls. The McShann sound, born out of the jump blues era and still going strong, is a touchstone between the swinging riffs of the KC big band and modern ensemble playing it helped to spawn

#### Recommended recordings by Jay McShann

The Early Bird Charlie Parker (1949-1943) MCA 1338, \$4.98 list Going to Kansas City Swaggie 1322, \$10.98 list

Kansas City Jour Sonet 716, \$10.98 list Kansas City on My Mind Black and Blue 33.108, \$9.98 list Blowin' in from KC (with Joe Thomas) Uptown 27.12, \$8.98 list Big Apple Bash Atlantic 90047, \$6.98 list Magical Jazz Jazz Mark 102, \$8.98 list Crazy Legs and Friday Strut Sackville 3011, \$8.98 list

Man from Muskogee Sackville 3005, \$8.98 list Kansas City Hustle Sackville 3021, \$8.98 list

## Rainmakers

and "heartland" topics. The music itself is great. The sound, though slick compared to their trio days, stands up well and has the potential to ne a hit. Their best song, "Let My People Go-Go" was made into a video and has already premiered on MTV. The re-working of this tune includes a horn section that fits in well with the

The album leads off with "Rockin" at the T-Dance," a tune that has as much to do with just growing up in the '60s as it does with the Hyatt tragedy, using references to failed Apollo missions juxtaposed with proms and dates. Following that is "Downstream," sort of a Bible-belt stream of consciousness rocker which has Harry Truman, Mark Twain and Chuck Berry in the

same boat flowing down the Mississippi. That old dancehall favorite "Big Fat Blonde" closes down side one and makes way for the more sentimental second side. About the song "Government Cheese," Bob said "In New York it got booed. They just didn't understand." Or maybe they just didn't like it. I'm not sure I understand it either, but it's a great title. The album's final cut, "Information," is one of their old show stoppers and the performance here is good as ever.

I hope the album does as well nationally as I'm sure it will here in KC and surrounding areas. Given the band's songwriting talents and charisma, they should do well. But then Men at Work came out of nowhere with barely enough talent to go around and become the

"new Beatles" for a few weeks. If God really is from the midwest like everyone thinks, then the Rainmakers should make it big. Or at least avoid the cut-out bins. Good luck.

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## **Dateline: discland**

Prepare yourself for a deluge of excellent jazz product bridging the 1950s to the 1980s. Already, two labels, Pablo and Verve / Emarcy, are fighting for viable space in top-of-the-line record stores. The Pablo recordings, produced by Norman Granz, are meticulously done, and usually feature many seasoned performers (Oscar Peterson, Joe Pass, Milt Jackson, Count Basie, et al.) in settings that may vary from all-star studio bands to live concerts in Europe and Japan.

There are already many titles available on that catalogue, and making a wise choice will require some personal decision. However, the works of two major favorite artists, Count Basie and Duke Ellington, are available on CD and are well worth considering. Basie is represented notably by 88 Basie Street, Kansas City Shout, On the Road, Warm Breeze and, in collaboration with Oscar Peterson, The Timekeepers.

The Count, incidentally, is also well represented in the CD bins with the recordings he made for Roulette in 1960s. That label has just released ten CDs starring **Basie**, with his band (Basie at Birdland, Basie in Sweden, Basie) and with various vocalists (Sarah Vaughan, Tony Bennett, Joe Williams, Billy Eckstine).

Most of the releases in the first period are in mono or early stereo and feature, not too surprisingly, many of the same artists who can now be heard on Pablo. Of particular interest on Verve, however, is the excellent series of "Songbooks" recorded by Ella Fitzgerald (Cole Porter, Johnny Mercer, Rodgers and Hart), now available on compact discs, in fresh resequencing and remastering that give the recordings greater continuity and enhanced sound quality. Both the choice of material and the performances rate highest.

The Creed Taylor-produced albums are more representative of that producer's own approach to jazz, a mixture of classical (or classically oriented) tunes and jazz rhythms, often veetened with strings, performed by a stable of in-house contract musicians such as Stan Getz, Wes Montgomery, Jimmy Smith, Kai Winding, etc. Of the titles currently available, don't miss the legendary albums by alto sax player Getz, Jazz Samba, with Charlie Burd, Stan Getz with Laurindo Almeida and Getz/Gilberto, with Antonio Carlos Jobim. These delightful albums, beautifully transferred to the laser-read format, started the bossa nova craze, and could very well revive it in the 1980s. The music, exuberant or softly tender, is very exciting and excitingly performed, with the untempo sides to be found particularly on the first two, and the softer moments on the Getz/Gilberto album

You should, however, consider one factor before deciding on these albums: the sides are relatively short, considering the total length of playing time that can be accumulated on a single compact disc. Jazz Samba clocks in at 33:29, With Laurindo Almeida at 37:35 and Getz/Gilberto at 33:25.

Other jazz labels are also entering the field. notably Fantasy, the all-jazz independent West Coast label, which has released a whole series of albums by John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, the MJQ and Bill Evans, among others. ECM's sparkling recordings in clude those of Pat Metheny, Keith Jarrett and Chick Corea (notably a memorable concert in Zurich with Gary Burton). GRP, the selfappointed digital master label, releases products that are consistently great-sounding. Releases by Dave Grusin, Billy Cobham, Lee Ritenour and Dizzy Gillespie can be found on this label, but I particularly recommend two: In the Mood performed by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, in glorious digital sound (for the neo-romantics) and Harlequin, and exquisite artistic combination between Dave Grusin and Lee Ritenour, the whole brew served with an evocative exotic accent.

Two popular soundtracks, **Back to the**Future and **Miami Vice**, both on MCA, have
just been released in the CD format. One of the
main attractions in the former, of course, is
Huey Lewis' familiar "Power of Love," a surprisingly well-crafted song that fares very well on
this compact disc. Unfortunately, the rest of the

tracks does not measure up, even though there are some interesting moments provided by Eric Clapton and composer Alan Silvestri.

As for Miami Vice, it's an excellent compilation album featuring the talents of Glenn Frey, Chaka Khan, Phil Collins, Tina Tumer and Jan Hammer, whose instrumental theme is also quite familiar. A fast-paced, exciting album, this soundtrack reflects the spirit of the show which it musically represents.

The first "interactive" compact disc has just been released by PolyGram, the original cast album of the current Broadway hit. The Mystery of Edwin Drood. Based on an unfinished novel by Charles Dickens. Drood was concocted by pop writer/producer Rupert Holmes, who rather than impose an ending to his own liking chose instead to let the audience select the culprit among a lineup of various villains in this musical whodunit. Depending on who is chosen, the ending differs from performance to performance.

The same kind of free choice is what Holmes gives to listeners of the score on CD. Taking full advantage of the format's flexibility in programming and longer spread in total timing. Holmes affixed all the possible endings at the end of the recording. It's a fun way to enjoy a recording and a clever way to force people to use the vast programming resources of their player.

It has been my general impression that many pop and rock recordings, when they are properly transferred, benefit tremendously from the digital format. There could not be a better example than the almost pristine CDs available from Motown, whose reputation as a manufacturer of grainy-sounding singles and albums has always been atrocious.

everal releases now belie that reputation, and return to an extraordinary new life many recordings that evoke a lot of memories. Besides the Stevie Wonder albums (Musiquarium, Sonas in the Kev of Life. The Secret Life of Plants), there has been an effort to put together at least two anthologies, one by the Temptations and one by Diana Ross and the Supremes. The latter one, particularly, is a revelation, with the CD looping together 20 tunes ("Baby Love." "I Hear a Symphony." "Come See About Me") performed the way they were meant to be heard - without surface sound, without distortion. It sounds amazingly good, and considering the age of these sid it also shows that Motown in the early 1960s already had a deft sense of stereo imagery. Definitely worthwhile.

Also well worth looking into (and listening to) if you are an Elvis fan is the catalogue already released by RCA, in neat digital transfers that enhance many of thse pre-stereo recordings tremendously. Included among those are Reconsider Baby, a collection of blues numbers, The Christmas Album, 50,000 Fans Can't Be Wrong and Golden Records. But if you can, try to find a sensational two-disc parallel import set, made in Germany by RCA and titled 32 Film-Hits. It's a compilation of songs from the soundtracks of Fun in Acapulco, Blue Hawaii, King Creole, Frankie and Johnny, Easy Come. Easy Go, G.I. Blues, Paradise, Hawaiian Style, Charro. Roustabout, Girls! Girls! Girls! and Follow That Dream. Quite a collection, including a few tunes rarely heard in such compilations.

Finally, if you currently own a CD of Abbey Road, made in Japan by Toshiba, its current market value is about \$250. The reason is that Capitol Records, which distributed product by the Beatles, is currently being sued by Ringo, George and the estate of John for non-payment of royalties. (Paul, who has just signed a new recording contract with Capitol, is not included in the suit.) Because of that situation, Capitol cannot release any Beatles product in the US and other territories. But where the Beatles signed a different agreement, as in Japan with Toshiba, there is no such litigation pending, and Abbey Road was released in Japan without any difficulty. Capitol, however, obtained an injunc tion against imports of that CD, so copies are currently very scarce, and worth a lot of money to the right people. Until Capitol and the Beatles reach an agreement, of course

-Didier C. Deutsch

#### **Directory**

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Jazz artist Steve Lacy, who will be featured in a film at the City Movie-Center on August 5-10.

#### Bob Dylan comes to PennyLane Video

While on his recent concert tour, pop icon **Bob Dylan** stopped by Pennyl.ane Video in Westport to browse. Due to tight Scheduling. Dylan and his entourage would have been unable to return the tapes the next day. Instead of paying the late fee, they opted to buy the tapes. Dylan's purchases were:

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COOLRAY & THE POLAROIDZ

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27

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**EMIRECORDING ARTISTS** 

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Also, don't miss the album release concert by Anne Steward and Band August 23, Community Christian Church, \$5 415 WESTPORT ROAD (LOWER LEVEL) KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 561-3747

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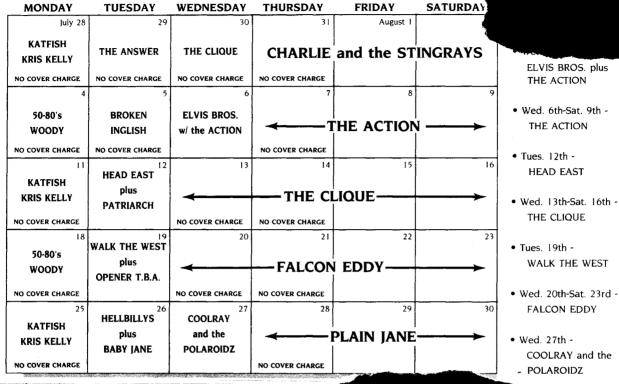
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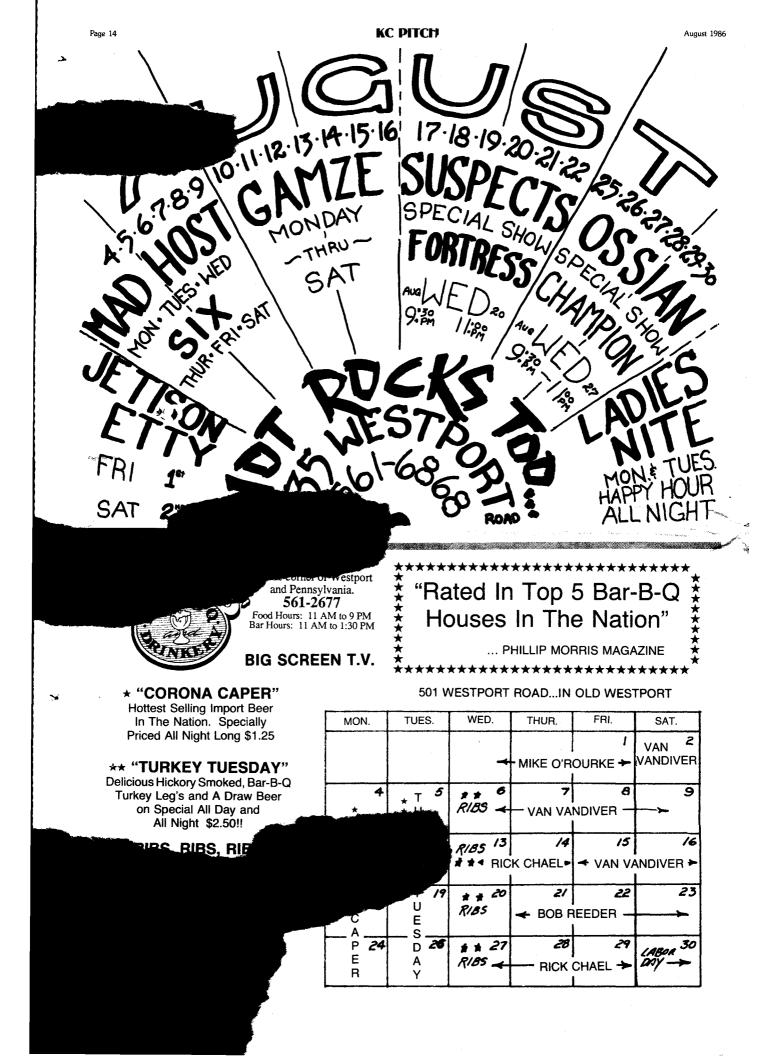
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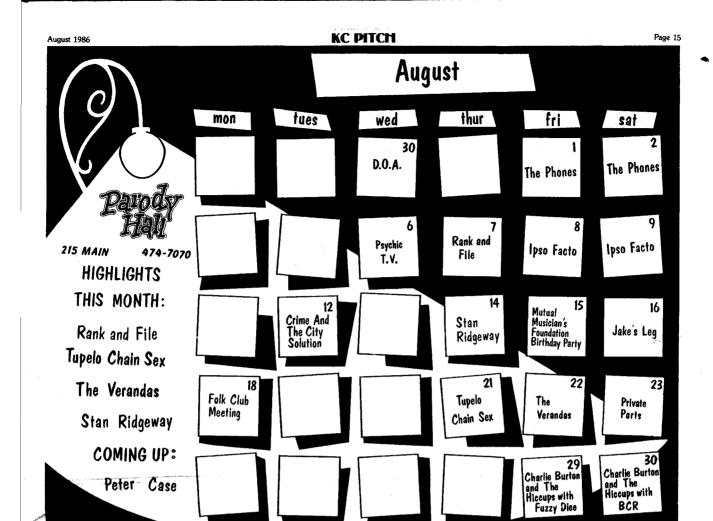
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## August Calendar

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Detrett July 28	FINLAND 29	к.с. 30	CHICAGO 31	August 1	2
BUZZTONES BLIND DUCK	KARELIA ELECTRONIC FINNISH FOLK	MUZIK MAIKA ROOTS/REGGAE	ED	DY CLEARWATER	
ADV. TIX 4  MINISTRY OF CHAOS A HIGHT OF PERFORMANCE	BATTLE OF THE BANDS BLUES NIGHT	BLACK CRACK REVIEW AFRO/NUCLEAR WAVE REGGAE TANGO FUNK	K.C. BLUES SOCIETY JAM	TOM BA & STREET FEATURIN BILL DYE & JIM	LIFE 16
HEW ROCK 11  LIBERTINES  BABY JANE  BANGTAILS  ALT. ROCK	BATTLE OF THE BANDS ROCK NIGHT	13 MIGHTY DIAMONDS INSTIGATORS REGOAL	FUZZY DICE  GARY KIRKLAND  BENEFIT  AMERICAN FRIENDS  SERVICE COMMITTEE	CHICAGO 15  EDDIE S. and fi  WOLF G. BLUES	he
LINCOLN 18 CHARLIE BURTON & the HICCUPS ABSOLUTE CEILING NEW ROCK	BATTLE OF THE BANDS ROCK HIGHT	LAWRENCE 20  COMMON GROUND  REGGAE	COLUMBIA 21  BEL AIRS  BLUES/ROCK	THE TABLER feature EARLENE (	ing
COLUMBIA 25 FREDDIE & THE WINGTIPS LONESOME HOUNDDOGS NEW ROCK	ADV. TIX 26  ALBERT COLLINS BLUES	27 SENSEMILLIAN VIBRATIONS REGGAE	SPRINGFIELD 28  JAY FLOYD & THE LAMPSHADES  HELLBILLYS  ROCK-A-BILLY	ADV. TIX 29  JIMM WITHERS!	-

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Walk the West

#### Walk this way

Wait a minute. Before you fly off the handle about another band of country rockers. Walk the West is not of the LA rockers-gone-country-punk set. They aren't aimed at the mohawk and bolo tie crowd. Instead, they espouse an autonomous brand of music that works hard at having fun. "Our music doesn't split people up into factions," explains drummer Richard Ice. "We earn the respect of young progressive kids and old hippies and everyone inbetween. There's honesty in our music." Paul Kirby, lead vocalist and guitarist adds, "We try to keep away from categorizing the music, putting it into slots. We get our own feel going. We just try to do good songs and not think so much about style."

Known for their wild stage antics and working up as much sweat as the dancers who crowd the floor in front of them, Walk the West brings a brand of charisma to their shows that is lacking from a good number of other western rock outfits. The group's sincerity towards their music is based on the family approach. All of their fathers are session men or songwriters in Nashville where the quartet grew up. Having known each other for years, starting a band together was just a natural progression. The main advice that seems to be the guiding force for the band came from Paul's father. He told him to keep the right attitude, be sincere and honest. For their show at the Lone Star August 19, Walk the West will be set for some sincere, honest hell raising.

#### August 1-10

Bannister's: Magic on Fri.-Sat. (1st-2nd,

#### The sound of art

DADADADADA is a new musical piay about the Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich during 1916-17. Written by James Larson with music by Short Term Memory, the piay is about disgust for an insane global war, the love of Hugo Ball and Emmy Jennings and their chance/inevitable meeting with the no taient Tristan Tzara. Tzara takes Emmy's travesties of night club singting and Hugo's intricate non-harmonic music and creates the rules for a brand new art form (so hell be good at it) called dada. The rest is art history.

The play premiered in Lawrence, KS and at the Wonderhorse Theatre in New York, performed by the Breadbasket Nation Theatre Company. This is the Kansas City premier with all new original more to be companied by the premier with all new original more to be companied by the premier with all new original more than the premier and the pr

8th-9th). City Light: City Light Orchestra every Thur.-Sat. Tim Whitmer & David Basse every Sun. Scott McDonald every Mon.-Tues. Horace Washington & Co. every Wed. City Spark: The Bel Airs on the 2nd, Rainmakers (Steve. Bob & Rich) on the 9th at 5 p.m. on KCUR-FM. Crown Center: The Drifters with Ida McBeth & Friends on the 1st for free. Emmylou Harris & the Hot Band with Los Bozos on the 8th. The Fan Club: Legends of Kansas City Jazz featur ing Jackie Anderson on Fri.-Sat. (1st-2nd) Jam session with Legends of Kansas City Jazz every Mon. Coots Dye every Tues.-Wed. Ssslick on Thur.-Sat. (7th-9th). Folly: Art Blakey on Sat. (9th). Harling's: Rockafella's featuring Ruthle on fri.-Sat. (1st-2nd). Primary Blues Band every Tues. Norton Canfield every Wed. Open mike every Thurs. Lonesome Houndogs on Fri.-Sat. (8th-9th) Jazzhaus: Bel Airs on Fri.-Sat. (1st-2nd). Lon nie Ray's blues jam on Wed. Rainmakers on Thur. Screamin' Lee & the Rocktones on Fri.-Sat. (8th-9th). Prks: Cleo Lain and John Dankworth at Swope Park on the 3rd, Free Gary Burton at Brush Creek on the Plaza on the 10th at 7 p.m. Free. Sandstone: Billy Ocean, Melissa Morgan on Wed. The Ever ly Brothers on Thur. Starlight: James Taylor on Sat. (2nd). Dancin' on Mon.-Sun (4th-10th). Uptown: Suburbs with the Hillbillies on Fri. (1st). David Grisman on Sat. (2nd). Little Willie & the Hide-a-ways on Sat. (9th). Walrus Inn: Hush Hush on Fri-Sat. (1st.-2nd). Crayons Fri-Sat. (8th-9th). Worlds of Fun: Roy Clark on Sun. (10th).

#### **August 11-17**

City Spark: "City Spark Update" on Sat. at 5 p.m. on KCUR-FM. CrossCurrents: The Deeprater Family (sea songs and shanties) in a house concert on Fri. at 3904 Harrison, 7:30 p.m., \$3. Crown Center: Little Anthony with Baby Leroy on Fri. for free. Fan Club: Jack Sheldon, Ross tompkins, John Heard, Sam Johnson Sr. on Thur-Sat. Harlings: Jim Bullabrew & the Chicanes on Fri.-Sat. Jazzhaus: Michael T. & Us on Thur. The Tablerockers featuring Earlene Bowens on Fri.-Sat. Midland: Dreamgirls on Tues.-Sun. Millsons Music Gallery (95th & Metcalf): John Greene, Romana Sexauer perform guitar compsoitions on Sun. at 2 p.m. for free. Parks: Les McCann at Benton & Brush Creek on Sun. at 7 p.m. for free. Sandstone: Spyro Gyra, Michael Franks, Al Di meola on Thurs. Starship on Sat. Starlight: George Thorogood & the Destroyers on Sat. Walrus Inn: Tomboyz on Fri.-Sat. Worlds of Fun: Exile on Sat.

#### **August 18-24**

City Spark: Yard Apes on Sat. at 5 p.m. on KCUR-FM. Community Christian Anne Steward & band with Holly Fischer on Sat. at 8 p.m. Crown Center: Don McClean with Danny Cox & Friends on Fri. for free. Fan Club: Legends of Kansas City Jazz featuring Jackie Anderson on Thur.-Sat Harling's: Da Da Da Da Da with Short Term Memory on Fri.-Sat. Jazzhaus: Broken English on Wed. Ida McBeth & Friends on Thur.-Sat, Parks: TBA in Volker Park at 7 p.m. for free. Penn Valley: Don Giovanni in the Little Theater on Sat.-Sun. Sandstone: Elton John on Thur. Fats Domino, Jerry Lee Lewis on Fri. UMKC: Yard Apes in White Recital Hall on Thur, at 8 p.m. for \$5.

#### August 25-31

City Spark: Ron Thompson & the Resistors on Sat. at 5 p.m. on KCUR-FM. Community Christian Church: Jim Ringer & Mary McCaslin on Sat. at 8 p.m. Crown Center The Turtles featuring Flo & Eddie with Hot Line on Fri. for free. Fan Club: Baby Leroy on Thur.-Sat. Jazzhaus: The Electric Stor on Wed. Altered media on Thur. Mighty Joe Young on Fri.-Sat. Parks: Broadway . . . The Ultimate, a musical review by Theatre Forum in Shawnee Mission Park (79th & Renner Rd.) on Fri.-Sat. at 8 p.m. for free. Penn Valley: Don Giovanni in the Little theater on Fri.-Sat Rockhurst: Eric Hansen performs on the lute in Massman Hall on Sun, at 2 p.m. for free, Worlds of Fun: Ronnie Milsap on Sat.-Sun.



Jimmy Witherspoon

#### Spoon's blues

Jimmy Witherspoon came out of Arkansas by way of California to become one of the original blues voices. With a background rooted in singing at the Baptist Church and a musical family. Spoon left for Hollywood at age 16 to try his luck with the clubs along LAS Central Avenue. It was at the Little Harlem that he first got to give it a shot, with a group fronted by T-Bone Walker

'T-Bone Walker had a white drummer from Texas named Jimmy. Big Six on tenor saxophone and Norman Bouton on trumpet. Bouton was going with a girl from my home town and he asked them to let me sing. From then on, whenever T-Bone would call me Id get up and sing. Beside Little Harlem. I also used to go to Lovejoy's and stay up all night long with Slain's Sewart and Art Tatum, who played in the hallway there. They all thought I was entertaining, even Tatum. Lovejoy's was a big after hours joint, achicken place upstairs at Vernon and Central Avenue. Ivie Anderson's Chicken Shack was right across the street.

Witherspoon hung out with folks like Jesse Price and Johnny Otis and his reputation as a singer got around. When Jay McShannis vocalist Walter Brown left, Spoon was called up. He auditioned with "Wee Baby Blues," a Joe Turner number, and was hired on the spot. After about three years with McShann, Witherspoon gained in popularity, becoming a versatile singer. Throughout his solo career, he's scored in both the jazz and pop markets, as well as with the blues. Today, he's a favorite at clubs and festivals around the world. Catch him at the Grand Emporium August 29 and 30.



Stan Ridgway

#### Our man in Hollywood

"I lived in the old Hollywood for a long time—you know, where even the birds are on junk. My wife and I lived in the middle of a kiddie-porn ring and the hooker upstairs had a gun. Basically you write about what you know." Stanard Ridgway knows about the seamy B movie side of life and his songs reflect that with a quirky style all his own. Ridgways music is reminiscent of cheesy film scores mixed with a healthy dollop of rock and roll and are the perfect vehicle for his furies.

Originally the voice of Wall of Voodoo. Ridgway went solo in 1983 collaborating first with Stewart Copeland on the Rumblefish soundtrack, then with producer Hal Willner on last years tribute to composer Kurt Weill. Lost in the Stars. His first solo LP. The Big Heat (IRS 5637, \$8.98 list), was released in early '86 to overwhelmingly positive reviews. The often bleak meanderings of his tunes are tempered with an edge of black comedy that makes the whole package appealing. Given his skewed sense of sci-fi Americana, Ridoway could become one of the best storytellers in pop music. The tales spun on his latest album shift from the jungles of Vietnam to a smarmy strip joint and just about everyplace in between. The tune "Salesman" was described as Bo Diddley on acid wielding a chainsaw in a sex boutique. Stan Ridgway brings his urban musical mythology to Parody Hall August 14. Don't miss it.