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musicweek

Dickens' Sony deal opens new chapter

by Ajax Scott

Rob Dickens has teamed up with former rival Sony Music less than three months after leaving Warner Music to launch the next stage of his music industry career.

Dickens' new record label Instant Karma has been formed as a worldwide 50/50 joint venture with Sony Music UK. The deal, announced last week, follows months of negotiations between Dickens, his lawyer Tony Russell and a list of would-be backers that was finally whittled down to Sony and Warner.

"I wanted to do a stand-alone record company. I wanted to control not just A&R but marketing and everything else. That made Warner and Sony the only serious contenders," says Dickens. "Ultimately it was down to the wire. My advice was to negotiate both deals. When they were both in front of me I had the feeling it was time to open a completely new chapter."

Dickens is currently looking for an office building in London's Soho, which he will acquire himself, while the label itself will be funded by Sony. Dickens expects to strike a separate deal to launch



New partners: Dickens (second left) in New York last week with (l-r) Sony Music worldwide chairman/ceo Tommy Mottola, Sony International president Bob Bowlin and Paul Burger

publishing company within a few months.

Dickens says Instant Karma will be a "small, focused, experienced artist-friendly company" run along similar lines to companies such as Chrysalis, Island and A&M in the Seventies. "Artists will feel they are part of the company - the philosophy is to be slightly dictatorial but benign," he says.

He initially plans to recruit around 10 "A&R-focused" staff,

later building a team of up to 20. Instant Karma will sign around five artists a year, most of whom are likely to be from the UK or Ireland. Dickens says he will not specifically target major acts whose deals are close to expiring. "I'm not going to go chasing after those acts. If they are interested in being part of that they're going to call," he says.

Dickens, who spent nine years running Warner's UK publishing arm before moving to head its record company in 1983, adds he is in no hurry to issue records. "It's really not important when the first record is out. This is the third and probably last part of my career. I want to be doing this for a very long time," he says.

Sony Music Europe chairman Paul Russell, who initially approached Dickens, describes the announcement as "a very good day for Sony Music". Sony UK chairman Paul Burger, who was subsequently involved in striking the deal, says, "Instant Karma will be the vehicle through which Rob continues to enjoy success, not only in the UK but throughout the world and I feel privileged to be part of it."



Polydor has got off to a flying start handling Interscope releases in the UK with the first single release under the partnership - My Name Is by US rapper Enimem - enjoying a huge initial shipment. Around 220,000 units of the single, released next Monday (March 29), have been ordered by retailers, while the track was yesterday (Sunday) on course to move into the Top 40 of the Airplay chart. "It's appealing right across the board," says Polydor head of radio promotion Ruth Parrish. A UK promo visit will include TV appearances this week on The Big Breakfast and CD-UK. The album The Slim Shady LP - which debuted at number two in the States earlier this month - follows on April 12.

Hear the hits first on new dotmusic service

Music Week sister website dotmusic today (Monday) launches an audio streaming service which gives music fans the chance to hear samples of upcoming single releases two weeks before their retail release.

dotmusic's Hit Machine uses embedded Real Audio technology to play a continuous stream of new release samples. Users can also read previews about each track as well as purchase the CDs from dotmusic retail partner HMV

for delivery following their release. Chris Cioce, commercial manager for the consumer music site, says, "This service allows fans to get a sneak preview of the best new music before anyone else. It will help record companies build awareness for new releases and encourage music sales."

The launch coincides with the signing of a blanket licensing deal with BMG enabling dotmusic to play audio clips from artists on its roster.

Munns finalises Universal exit

PolyGram International's senior VP of pop marketing David Munns has concluded negotiations to leave the company following its merger with Universal.

Munns, who started his music industry career 27 years ago and joined PolyGram as managing director of Polydor in 1987, has formed his own company, World Grid Solutions.

"I have had a good time at PolyGram and felt it was time to move on," says Munns. He adds that he plans to remain in the music business. He will also remain as a consultant to Universal on certain projects effective from April 1.

Munns is one of the most senior UK-based former PolyGram executives to leave the company.

Distributors prepare replacements for Eros

Independent retailers concerned about the loss of the Eros ordering system are being offered help by three of the major record companies.

The Entertainment Network (Ten) - the new joint Sony/Warner operation which begins trading on April 6 - and Universal both expect to have new systems in place before the label-funded Eros system is scrapped on July 31.

Ten is confident of launching an ordering service linked to the internet by the time it begins shipping Warner product on May 4. The company will use an internet authoring tool and hosting service and create a web site that outlines price and product details. It will be a secure service and retailers will be given an access code and account number.



Pearce: hope for Eros users
 Ten managing director, Owen Pearce, says the order information will feed directly into the company's warehouse in Aylesbury. "It will have many search options and could eventually tie-in with other Sony, Warner and third-party websites and possibly other distributors as a replacement for Eros," she says.

Although Warner has never signed up to Eros, Pearce says Ten will not withdraw from the service before the end of July.

Universal says the demise of Eros and complaints from retailers using its information and ordering desks has prompted it to bring both services in-house from April rather than use a third-party call centre. It is currently recruiting extra tele-sales staff.

In February the Baird/BPI IT committee said it would work with Eros to try to find a replacement catalogue and ordering system, possibly using internet technology. Richard Wootton, former Baird chairman and partner at retail Anileys in Leicester, says the committee is due to begin a feasibility study to see how a service linked to the internet would work.

Now grows with Debenhams deal

Entertainment retailer Now is furthering its rapid growth by extending its presence to 90 Debenhams stores.

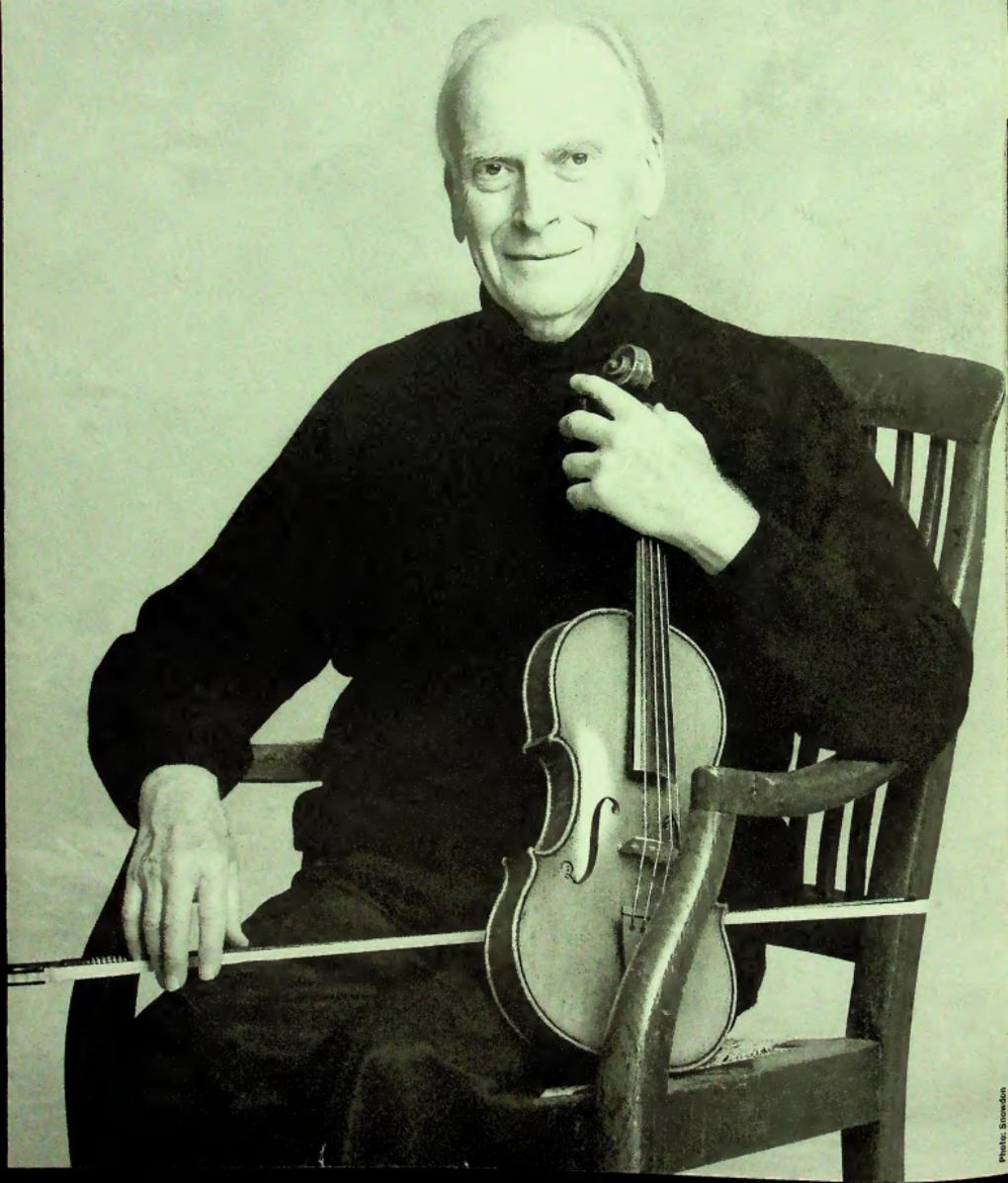
Now, which already has concessions in 18 Debenhams stores, has struck a deal with the chain to introduce selected special offer promotions in 90 branches from this October. Brad Aspell, who set up Now in 1994, says the Debenhams promotions, which will run as a trial until Easter 2000, will be concentrated on a few higher-price, multi-buy items such as an offer of 10 albums by the same artist. "It will drive catalogue business there. We don't envisage it as a chart opportunity," he says.

The promotions could be a prelude to the retailer gaining more concessions within the chain.

Yehudi Menuhin

1916-1999

EMI
CLASSICS



Sony's Higher Ground imprint is moving into soundtracks with its first film music compilation, which features new tracks from No Doubt (pictured), Laffield and Natalie Imbruglia. Label manager Mark Conway says Gol, directed by Doug Liman, is the ideal vehicle for a debut soundtrack because the music is prevalent throughout the movie. "Swingers [also directed by Liman] was one of the best films of the past couple of years and the feel of this new film sits easily with the feel of the music we release on this label," he says. Sony has secured the rights to release New, the first No Doubt recording for two years, and will issue it as the lead single in May or June following the release of the soundtrack on April 12. The Columbia/Tristar film opens in the UK in late summer.



Mark & Lard sign up to host Cad Awards

Mark & Lard are moving their radio show down to London for a day on May 6 in order to be present at the fourth MW Cad Awards at the Park Lane Hilton that evening.

The Radio One duo will preside over 27 awards, including The Creative Award, best director and best designer, and three new honours. This year the best album design has been split into two categories – artist and non artist – to encourage design in the area of compilations, dance and classical music. A new online campaign category will reward web-based work and there is also a new award for the best enhanced CD.

Tickets for this year's evening event are £100 including VAT. For further details contact Anne Jones on 0171-940 8570.

news file

EC HEARING ON PARALLEL IMPORTS
The European Commission is planning a hearing in Brussels to discuss the findings of the National Economic Research Association study into the effect of allowing parallel imports in to the UK. The report, ordered by internal market commissioner Mario Monti, warns that record companies' profits would be adversely affected if barriers are lifted. Yolanda Smits, IPI international trade advisor, says the hearing is likely to be in April.

EDEL CONSIDERS FURTHER GROWTH
Edel Music Group is believed to be conducting investigations which could lead to the Hamburg-based group acquiring one or more music companies in the US and Europe. Any capital required for the acquisitions, which would primarily boost the group's market share in the regions, would be sought from existing shareholders. Edel last week announced 1998 pre-tax sales of 92.3% at £15.5m on sales of £145m, up 37.6%.

CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON LIVE MUSIC
The attitude of UK record labels towards the live music industry came under fire at the 11th International Live Music Conference in London earlier this month. Speaking at a press conference, promoter Harvey Goldsmith accused labels of taking a short-term approach towards developing artists' careers and of not providing adequate tour support.

RESHUFFLE AT OUTSIDE ORGANISATION
Claire Hajaj has been promoted to director of new business and corporate strategy at The Outside Organisation as part of a restructuring at the company. Caroline McAteer, who handles the Spice Girls and Boyzone, has been appointed to the board of directors. Meanwhile, Stuart Bell has joined the press team as account executive from RCA and Laura Norton has joined the team from Universal to handle Brits winner Des're.

EMI outlines its plans to City at rebut briefing sessions

by Paul Williams
EMI opened its doors to the City last Friday in a day-long conference to set out its plans to investors and analysts.

Around 85 financial players attended the event, at which the group issued a trading statement confirming that it expected pre-tax profits for the year ending March 31 to be in line with market expectations.

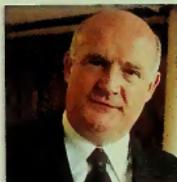
Covering every area of EMI's business from publishing and distribution to new technology, it was the first such presentation held by the major since the Thorn EMI demerger in 1996 and came less than two weeks after the appointment of Eric Nicol as incoming executive chairman.

Nicol, currently chief executive of

United Biscuits, was present at the conference, though he did not make a speech. Sir Colin Southgate, who will be succeeded by Nicol on August 1, was also in attendance at the gathering, which was opened by corporate affairs director Jason Crisp at Virgin Records' offices in west London and began with a speech by EMI Music Publishing coe Marty Bandier.

EMI Recorded Music coe Ken Berry and Virgin Records UK president Paul Conroy were among those who also made speeches in the morning, while the afternoon session at EMI's Brook Green headquarters included EMI Music Europe president/coe Rupert Perry and EMI Records UK president/coe Tony Wadsworth.

Phillips & Drew Fund Manage-



Nicol, attended conference ment's Martin Clarke, who attended the morning part of the conference, says the mood was very upbeat. "There was a very strong sense this was a very powerful business and has got a very powerful potential future, particularly

with the way technology is changing," he says.

Panorama Richards analyst Paul Richards, who follows EMI but was unable to attend the meeting, says it is not unusual for a business the size of EMI to hold a conference of this kind. "Rather than just saying their interim or full results, they can go through and outline in some detail what their business is doing," he says.

During the conference EMI broke down its publishing division's figures for the first time in a bid to underline its strength in that sector. EMI's share price rose ahead of the conference by 20.25p to 418.5p to record the biggest increase last Thursday on the FTSE Media Index. It rose a further 18p on Friday to close at 438.5p.

BPI scores SxSw hit with Best Of British

AUSTIN, TEXAS: The BPI's debut Best of British reception at the South by Southwest convention last week was voted an instant hit, with International industry executives clamouring to meet some of the UK's 130-plus attendees, writes Stephen Jones.

BPI Council member and Revolver managing director Paul Birch, who had flown in from the Miami Winter Music Conference, said, "The British are the biggest overseas contingent. Interest is still in its early stages, but I think SxSw will become the Popkomm of North America for us." The BPI reception featured performances by Exo, Right Said Fred and Whistler.

Thursday's buzz UK act was Beth Orton. "Because she's never really played here before, SxSw is the perfect event to let people know she's got a new album coming out," said Peter Edge, the New York-based Englishman who is Ariana's senior A&R director. Friday's buzz UK act was set to be Robbie Williams.

● Full SxSw round-up next week

MCPS-PRS takes role in new copyright grouping

The MCPS-PRS Alliance took the first step towards establishing what chief executive John Hutchinson describes as a "common currency of copyright" last week with the launch of a £20m joint venture project with Dutch collection society Buma/Stemra and US performing rights body Ascap.

The International Music Joint Venture (IMJV) is seeking to provide the three societies with common information systems that will serve as a joint "back office" overseeing both mechanical and performing rights administration.

The societies believe combining skills and resources will eliminate duplication of common databases, improve accuracy in collection and distribution, and reduce costs. Ascap chief executive John Lofurmento says the three-year project will create "a platform for the music rights society of the future".

The new systems are expected to go into operation within a year. Once they have been fully tested – a process that will take up to four years – an IMJV administration cen-



Hutchinson: "Common currency" tre will be established in the Netherlands. Hutchinson concedes staff redundancies are possible but says they would be a "last resort". Hutchinson does not rule out other societies joining the grouping. "We would welcome other organisations as long as they bring something to the party," he says. BMI, the other large US performing rights body, was originally involved in the project but pulled out last year. Japan's Jasrac, another body initially interested in the venture, withdrew because it believed IMJV was not relevant to Japanese-language repertoire.

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Priced £35, the GAVIN BTD 2 is available now from Miller Freeman, the publishers of this magazine. For more information, call: Emma, Richard or Shane on tel: 0171 948 8595/8572/8695

INDIES NEED AN EROS SOLUTION

Given the inevitable ups and downs in the day-to-day relationships between retailers and suppliers, it is good to see positive steps being attempted to cater for the needs of dealers, and in particular indie dealers.

A case in point are the solutions being developed by major distributors to the imminent demise of electronic ordering system Eros.

That solutions are being attempted by individual suppliers is to be applauded. Dealers remain concerned, however, if too many alternatives are developed, and in particular if there is more than one internet-based solution as seems possible.

The internet offers the prospect of the simplest solution of all, but if every supplier has a different site with different log-in procedures and different information available, life could become more, rather than less complicated.

For all its faults, the beauty of Eros as it stands is that each shop sends off all its orders together and they are then routed to the different suppliers by AT&T.

This needs to be mirrored in any internet-based solution. One scheme apparently under investigation is for chart-proprietor Mics - in which Bard is one of the joint venture partners - to prepare its own solution via a single database. This is clearly a complex process and should not be hurried. But indie retailers are understandably worried that July 31, when Eros is due to disappear, is only four months away. Such a solution would solve Eros's greatest weakness, namely that some of the largest suppliers are not currently involved. But to win retailers' full support it must be up and running from the start.

Let us hope that the spirit of cooperation and partnership enables such a solution to be pushed through - and quickly.

Alax Scott

WEBBO

CUT THE CRAP AND TELL THE TRUTH

About a year ago, I wrote a column about the difficulty of getting A&R people to see unsigned bands. The manager concerned (a friend), tried again this week. It's not cheap to bring a band from the other end of the country and having followed the tried-and-tested route of submitting demos and receiving encouraging noises, the manager set up a gig. Nine A&R people said in advance they would attend. Nine A&R people confirmed on the day they would be there. None turned up.

This is not only extremely dispiriting for the act concerned (not to say expensive), but I think it's incredibly rude. Some might think I'm naive in this respect, but what sort of message does behaviour like this send out to the younger generation about our industry?

My gripe is that very few of the highly-paid - and we are all highly-paid compared with most other industries - personnel in the music business have the guts to back up their decisions and speak honestly to people who have made contact.

And I'm not just talking A&R people here - managing directors, bookers on radio shows and agents, to name but a few, are just as guilty.

The most common tactic is to hide behind ansphones and secretaries until the person gives up. I do realise that A&R people get deluged with material, but all I ask is that people are honest with unsigned bands and don't inadvertently raise false expectations.

There are echoes here of the editor's recent column after the Music Week Awards about the importance of experience. Everyone is busy in this industry, possibly too busy, and everyone is important to outsiders, but it takes so little effort to pick up the phone and make your excuses. To bend a quote, "It's nice to be important but it's important to be nice."

You don't have to be arrogant. Whatever their opinions, I'll bet Pete Waterman and Chris Briggs don't behave like that.

Jon Webster's column is a personal view

Senior staff go as Kingfisher reshuffles labels

Kingfisher last week confirmed the departure of several senior staff from its record labels, including Crimson Productions general manager Adrian Pitt and founder and managing director of VCI's West Side label Bob Fisher.

Fisher will be replaced by West Side sales and marketing director Pete MacKinn, who takes over today ("Monday") as general manager. Kingfisher is currently integrating West Side into its Demon Records operation. As previously reported, Peter Stuck, managing director of VCI's music unit MCI, left at the end of February.

The departures came two days after Kingfisher announced its year-



B' Witch'd: 'a Woolies act'

end results. Entertainment was the group's star performer as sales across music and the department's other product lines rose 14% year-on-year. The division's success helped lift the retailer's profits for the year by nearly 9% to record £114.4m with overall sales growing

by more than 16% to £7.5bn. Entertainment turnover for the group is now more than £800m.

Woolworths entertainment trading controller Tim Coles says his department had an extremely good year which included selling more than 1m units of the Titanic video. "One of the things I'm very pleased with is the way we've been able to work with people like Sony in breaking a band like B' Witch'd," he says.

Elsewhere, Kingfisher's music and video wholesale operation Entertainment UK's sales rose by 21%, while MCV performed strongly during the year as its presence grew from 47 to 61 stores.

New FM licences
to spark early interest

by Tracy Smead
Radio groups in Emrap, Chrysalis and Capital last week expressed an early interest in applying for new FM regional licences announced by the Radio Authority as part of an expansion of the UK sector.

The new licences for South Wales, West/South Yorkshire, and second licences for the West Midlands and East Midlands increase the number of regional licences from 12 to 16. The RA has also announced a further 15 small-scale and other local licences.

The expansion follows increased frequency availability and feedback from prospective broadcasters and the public. The new licences, which will be advertised from this July through next year, are likely to make use of FM frequencies within the 106-107MHz spectrum.

"We carried out a consultation exercise and from that we gleaned there was more support for a mix of small-scale and regional licences than for one national licence," says a RA spokeswoman.

The South Wales licence will serve the main population centres



Schoonmaker: eyeing Midlands

along the coastal strip of South Wales, including Cardiff, Swansea and Newport; West Midlands will include coverage equivalent to 100.7 percent FM's existing licences; and West/South Yorkshire will cover an area broadly similar to Galaxy 105. East Midlands, however, remains subject to a suitable transmission site.

The new regional licences are the first to become available since the second central Scotland licence was awarded to Beat FM in February. Emrap, Chrysalis and Capital immediately said they would

examine them seriously.

Tim Schoonmaker, chief executive of Emrap Radio, which operates the Kiss and Magic stations, says, "The West Midlands is crying out for a Kiss radio station." He adds the company is also keen to expand its Magic brand.

Phil Riley, managing director of Chrysalis Radio, which operates five Galaxy and two Heart stations, says, "We will be looking at every single one of them carefully. We haven't covered the entire country with Galaxy yet and we're keen to bring it to people."

Capital says analogue licences present "great" business opportunities though it was disappointed only four new regional licences have been announced.

● A consortium including Emrap and Capital has emerged as the sole bidder for the first local digital multiplex service for the Birmingham region. CE Digital is proposing to broadcast seven services: contemporary hit radio (BRMB), Gold (Capital), Modern Rock (Xfm), Soft and Melodic (Magic), Asian, Dance and the BBC's Radio WM.

Shand locked in legal row with Castle Music

Terry Shand is facing a legal battle with the company he founded following accusations his latest venture, Eagle Rock, breached a contract over video exploitation rights.

Castle Music, co-founded by Shand in 1983 and now owned by the Rutland Trust, has issued a High Court writ against Eagle Rock claiming it is in breach of contract over a written agreement dated April 1 1997 giving Shand's new company the rights to act as worldwide agents for various titles owned or controlled by Castle.

In turn, Eagle Rock has issued two writs against Castle, the first of which alleges the company unlawfully terminated the agreement between the two parties. A second writ, not related to the first, concerns an alleged infringement by Castle of the rights to an album by the Stray Cats. Castle says the action will be defended vigorously. The company also says it will vigorously defend the 29-page writ issued against it.

Magic man takes up Box role

Francis Currie, former programme director of Magic 105.4FM, is transferring within the Emrap empire to take up the post of programme director at The Box.

One of Currie's first moves has been to trim the list of videos available for selection from 500 to just 150 titles to provide a clearer musical identity for the channel. Around one third of this material will be pre-release, while another third will be popular music driven by viewers choices. The final third will be given over to proven songs.

"It's going to be popular mainstream with a twist," says Currie. He says he is able to fine-tune the playlist because The Box's interactive nature has provided the channel with invaluable information about music customers.

Currie, who joined Melody two years ago as programme director and oversaw its metamorphosis into Magic, is running a team of three at The Box including programme manager Stephanie Price and acting head of production Fiona Lambie.



Currie: slimmer down playlist

"There are three main qualities of The Box: breaking new acts, non-stop music and the interactive element, which is something we particularly want to enhance," he says. "With future technologies around the corner, like digital TV, that means an opportunity for new forms of programming."

Currie replaces Liz Laskowski, who left the channel with founder Vince Monsey last December. Magic head of music, Trevor White, is promoted to Currie's former job.

Warner's Urban Force takes it to the street

Warner Music has become the latest UK major to create a street team of regional club and radio DJs to promote black music at street level.

The Urban Force will comprise around 20 club and radio DJs from around the UK who will work alongside community radio and independent record stores to promote and market the label's black music releases at street level.

"Over the past few years the Warner group has had a lot of success with its urban roster. We feel we need to keep the credibility of our artists as they cross over [to the mainstream]. We also want to reach out to the regions," says Aasha Ntesie-Ra, Warner's club promoter-coordinator. Warner's roster includes Shola Ama, Brande, Busta Rhymes and Missy Elliott.

Ntesie-Ra also notes an increase in the amount of US repertoire now reaching the UK. One example is Drea, a 17-year-old female artist whose debut single Body Rock is due for release on April 26. "A few imports had come out and people were going crazy for it on the street," she says.

The Urban Force follows the formation of street teams at other UK labels including Artists and Columbia, which is currently conducting a money-off promotion for rapper Nas in conjunction with Virgin Megastores.

Ntesie-Ra says the focus of Warner's Urban Force will be co-ordinated campaigns involving hairdressing salons, barber shops and other such places.

Andy Williams was yesterday (Sunday) challenging to score his first UK Top 10 single since Solitaire in January 1974 with the double A-sided reissue of Music To Watch Girls By and Can't Take My Eyes Off You. The two tracks' chart return follows their use in television commercials for the Fiat Punto and Peugeot 306. Williams was in the UK last week undertaking an extensive series of promotional visits, including TV appearances on Richard & Judy and TFI Friday and an in-store signing session last Monday at HMV's flagship Oxford Street Store in London. Sony's catalogue marketing product manager, Darren Henderson says the single is appealing across the ages. "We've got 16, 17- and 18-year-olds watching the TV commercials and at the other end original Andy Williams fans," says Henderson, pictured left at the HMV visit with head of catalogue marketing Phil Saville and Williams.

EMI unveils plans for Millennium campaign

by Tracey Snell

The industry's year 2000 celebrations are continuing to take shape with EMI last week revealing details of a series of marketing initiatives themed around the Millennium.

They involve EMI catalogue product and the creation of a special Millennium logo which will feature in a number of different projects. Created by design consultancy Marketing Image, the logo comprises the words The Millennium written as one word with the letters EMI highlighted.

"We were playing around with typographical ideas and this just jumped out. It's a clever bit of branding," says Jon Kemper, managing director of Marketing Image, which has previously worked with EMI on a number of packaging projects including Pink Floyd's Pulse which featured a flashing light on its cover.

The campaign kicks off on April 5 with the release of 10 classic albums reissued on vinyl. The Millennium Vinyl Collection includes Queen's A Day At The Races, David Bowie's Aladdin Sane, REM's Document and Frank Sinatra's Come Dance With Me. EMI has set an £8.75 dealer price.

The series will be followed in May by Legends Of The 20th Century, a



THE MILLENNIUM

Reissued Sinatra and Specials in The Millennium campaign

collection of 20 CD titles (dealer price £6.99) commemorating some of the century's great cultural figures including Noel Coward, Edith Piaf, Frank Sinatra and Maria Callas.

The project is just one of many music industry initiatives being put together to mark the new Millennium.

Next month Radio One DJ Pete Tong is due to announce details of the station's Millennium projects including a New Year dance extravaganza, while HMV has teamed with Channel Four and Classic FM for a

Music Of The Millennium poll and Cliff Richard is to play a Millennium Eve concert in aid of charity.

EMI's vinyl collection follows a similar series released to coincide with its centenary in 1997 featuring albums by acts including The Beach Boys, Pink Floyd, Iron Maiden and Kate Bush.

"That did really well and we felt, if anything, that the specialist market in vinyl has grown," says Steve Davis, EMI's director of catalogue development, adding that further Millennium projects are being planned for later in the year.

newsfile

UK PLAY INCREASES REACH
UK Play is to increase its potential reach by more than 3m homes after striking a deal to broadcast between 1am-7am on analogue cable and satellite while UK Horizons is not broadcasting. The newly-expanded 24-hour music and comedy channel is available full-time to SkyDigital and Ondigital subscribers.

PIGDON STEPS UP AT BBC RADIO

John Pidgeon, whose productions have ranged from a Kula Shaker documentary on Radio One to comedy programmes on Radio Two, has been appointed radio entertainment editor at BBC Entertainment Production. Part of his role will be to integrate radio and television in a full multimedia department.

EUK MAN JOINS OUR PRICE

Steve Stanilons, formerly EUK's video buyer for film product, has been appointed Our Price's senior product manager for visual media products. He will be responsible for the development of the video and games market.

BILL SET FOR V99

The Manic Street Preachers, Massive Attack and Suede are among the acts taking part in this year's V99 festival, which is being held at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, and Weston Park in South Staffordshire on August 21 and 22. The reformed Happy Mondays, The Beautiful South, radio and television acts are among around 50 other artists also performing at the event.

LLOYD WEBBER EYES RUG STAKE

Andrew Lloyd Webber is understood to be close to an agreement with Seagram to acquire the 30% stake the Canadian drinks and entertainment group has in The Really Useful Group (RUG). Webber opened talks with PolyGram a year ago about the shareholding he sold to the Dutch group in 1991 and has been negotiating with Seagram since its \$10.6bn purchase of PolyGram last year.

GLOBAL EPIC ROLE FOR BARNETT

Steve Barnett, former partner of UK-based Part Park management, has been promoted to the newly-created position of executive vice president worldwide marketing at Epic and SDC Music. Barnett, who joined Epic in 1996 as senior vice president international, will be based in New York.

VIRGIN MID-PRICE FULL-PRICE

Contrary to a possible impression given in last week's mid-price supplement, Virgin albums by Gomez, Air, The Verve, Janet Jackson and Enigma were only temporarily available at mid-price and have now reverted to full-price.

BOYZONE HIT PLATINUM RAIN

Boyzone's album A Different Beat and Said & Done both reached triple-platinum status last week as their single When the Going Gets Tough Turned Platinum. A BPI platinum award also went to the compilation Love Songs, which also went to 2Pac's Greatest Hits and the singles It's Not Right But It's Okay by Whitney Houston and Better Best Forgotten by Steps.



Church to feature in NSPCC TV push

Charlotte Church's recording of The Jesus Is to feature in the NSPCC's Full Stop national television campaign against child abuse.

The Sony Classical artist will perform the piece at London's Theatre Royal today (Monday) at a launch for the TV and poster campaign which will run for a year and also features the Spice Girls and Newcastle United footballer and England captain Alan Shearer. Its target is to end cruelty to children within a generation.

Meanwhile, the BBC1 is screening a 40-minute documentary on the 13-year-old artist at 7.20pm next Sunday (March 28).

Charlotte Church: The Ascend Of An Angel will trace her career from the very beginnings to a New York showcase in January.

New music in TV ads prompts claims concern

The number of requests from creative agencies for new and contemporary music for use in TV commercials has tripled over the past three years, according to new research.

Although a number of campaigns continue to make use of older tracks and few agencies would ditch the "right" track for one that is merely current, increasingly agencies are requesting new and contemporary recordings. This type of music represents a third of the requests handled by music synchronisation company Songseekers International.

"The number has increased

three-fold over the past three years," says Mark Ross, Songseekers music/creative director.

Recent examples include Suede's Beautiful Ones featured in a Brylcreem ad and Space's Female Of The Species used by Impulse deodorant.

However, Songseekers says record companies should be doing more to help the agencies.

Chairman David Simmons says record company master sound recording contracts often do not include indemnity clauses which would protect licencees in the event of royalty claims from non-featured artists such as



Simmons: Indemnity clause plea session musicians.

"This is a very serious issue and one which the record companies

are not addressing," he says.

Simmons, who knows of the experience of one ad agency producer who was left with a £25,000 bill following a royalty claim, fears that the moment there is a large lawsuit or insurance claim, agencies will be deterred from using original recordings.

Chrysalis Music general manager Catherine Bell, who is involved with master recording rights at both the publishing company and its sister label Echo, says, "We feel if we grant someone a right we should indemnify them and so, generally we do. But there is a lot of companies who don't."

chartfile

● V2's Stereophonics should be knocking back the cocktails following their performance on the Channel 4. The band's second album *Performance And Cocktails* is the highest new entry at 24 this week in the French chart, where Robbie Williams' *I've Been Expecting You* makes a recovery of three places to climb to 32. The Stereophonics' labelmates, Underworld, remain in the Belgian Top 10 at six, the highest arrivals at seven in Australia and enter at 22 in Germany with *Beaucoup Fish*.

● Cher remains strong enough to hold off all challengers on *MV* sister magazine *Rolling Stone's* Top 20 chart of UK-sourced repertoire on the European airwaves (see below). The Belive album's second single holds for a second week at the top, while the Belive album continues to give the WEA artist two songs in the Top 10, dropping two to seven.

● George Michael's *Ladies & Gentlemen* best of has been hanging around Europe's Top 20 sales charts for the whole of the year to date, currently at 13 in Belgium, 16 in the Netherlands and 23 in Germany. Expect that presence to go on for some while yet as the full sales effect of the album's second single, *As*, kicks in. The Mary J. Blige debut — the second-biggest UK hit on European radio — is Italy's highest new entry at five, makes a swift climb of 26 places to 15 in the Netherlands, while in France it moves up 17 to 30.

● U2's *The Best Of 1980-1990* is challenging to become the second album by a UK-signed act to reach number one in the Netherlands within the past month. It pulls off a remarkable revival this week, climbing eight places to two and is only kept from the top by rise Delange's *World Of Hurt*. The Bee Gees' *One Night Only* holds at four.

● Her angelic voice continues to take her further afield. Sony Classical's Charlotte Church has reached another significant milestone in her international career by entering the Top 20 of the Japanese albums chart at 20 with *Voice Of An Angel*. Another Sony act, Kula Shaker, climb two places in Japan to number 16 with their second album *Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts*.

● Normal service is resumed in Canada, where the ever-present *Candle In The Wind 1997* by Elton John wins back its top five status with a two-place climb to four. That gives him two appearances in the top five as *Written In The Stars* with LeAnn Rimes is at number five.

● Nearly 30 years after their demise, The Beatles are clocking up awards as busily as ever. Paul McCartney was last Tuesday ennobled as a solo artist in Cleveland's Rock'n'Roll Hall Of Fame alongside the late Dusty Springfield, while the Fab Four were honoured five times last week in the new chart. Introduced RIAA diamond awards for singles and albums registering more than 10m shipments in the States. Other UK acts whose releases were among the 62 that reached that status include Jeff Leppard, Elton John and Pink Floyd.

Elton's Aida gets long-haul treatment with mercury push

by Paul Williams

Mercury Records this week enters the first phase of what it is predicting could be a two-year campaign for the new Elton John and Tim Rice collaboration *Aida*.

The studio recording of the forthcoming stage musical, the pair's first work together since the 14cm-selling soundtrack to Disney's *The Lion King* in 1994, is being issued worldwide from today (Monday) with its stage debut this autumn set to take the project on a step further.

Including contributions from the Spice Girls, LeAnn Rimes, Leny Kravitz and Tina Turner, the album also represents the first significant new contract overseas by Stan Thomas since her elevation this month to the role of director of international marketing at Mercury



Elton John & LeAnn Rimes: big hit

UK. "It's a tremendous project and this will carry us through right until 2000, if not further," says the former senior international marketing manager, who commends its launch with Rice's co-penned Jesus Christ Superstar in that the studio album is coming out before the musical itself.

Just a year after performing publicly for the first time in her native Norway, Lene Marlin already stands as one of her country's biggest recording stars. Signed to Virgin Records Norway, the 18-year-old singer/songwriter's *Unforgivable Sinner* became the first debut single to enter at one in the Norwegian chart last November, and this February was named song of the year at the local Grammy Awards. Huge interest has since followed in Australia, Denmark, Sweden and Japan, where the single entered the international chart at 13 last week. Meanwhile, Virgin in the UK is preparing to issue the single in May, followed by her self-penned debut album *Playing My Game* on May 31. "This is developing a lot quicker than we anticipated," says Virgin's international marketing manager Steve Lee, who adds that, despite her overseas success to date, Marlin is only undertaking her first full international promotional trip at the end of next month when she visits Japan.



UK TOP 20 AIRPLAY HITS IN EUROPE

TW	UK Title	Artist	UK company
1	1 Strong Enough	Cher	WEA
2	2 As	George Michael & Mary J Blige	Epic
3	2 When You're Gone	Bryan Adams & Mel C	ASB/Mercury
4	4 You Don't Know Me	Amand Van Helden	ffrr
5	8 Strong	Robbie Williams	Chrysalis
6	7 Tender	Blur	Food/Parlophone
7	5 Believe	Cher	WEA
8	6 Praise You	Fatboy Slim	Suitt
9	9 No Regrets	Robbie Williams	Chrysalis
10	14 You Promise The Sun From My Heart	Manic Street Preachers	Epic
11	10 Promises	The Cranberries	Mercury
12	11 Written In The Stars	Elton John & LeAnn Rimes	Rocket/Mercury
13	13 Sweetest Thing	U2	Island
14	17 What's Your Sign?	Des'ree	Sony S2
15	12 Each Time	E.L.T	Telstar
16	15 You Gotta Be	Des'ree	Sony S2
17	15 End Of The Line	Honeyz	1st Avenue/Mercury
18	0 When The Going Gets Tough	Boyzone	Polydor
19	16 No Matter What	Boyzone	Polydor
20	20 Life	Des'ree	Sony S2

Chart based on the 50 most played Unplayed tracks on British Radio 100% of 100 stations. UK chart compiled by the British Phonographic Industry. www.bpi.co.uk

TOP UK-SIGNED SALES CHART PERFORMERS ABROAD

Country	Title/Artist	Label	chart position	UK
AUSTRALIA	album <i>No Matter What</i> Boyzone	Polydor	10	9
album <i>Best Of 1980-1990</i> U2	Island	3	3	
CANADA	album <i>Goodbye Space Girls</i> Virgin	5	4	
album <i>Believe</i> Cher	WEA	3	3	
FRANCE	album <i>Believe</i> Cher	WEA	4	3
album <i>Believe</i> Cher	WEA	11	16	
GERMANY	album <i>Best Of 1980-1990</i> U2	Island	4	6
album <i>Believe</i> Cher	WEA	2	10	
ITALY	single <i>As</i> George Michael & Mary J Blige	Epic	5	1
album <i>Believe</i> Cher	WEA	16	20	
NETHERLANDS	album <i>Believe</i> Cher	WEA	11	8
album <i>Best Of 1980-1990</i> U2	Island	2	10	
SPAIN	album <i>What's Your Sign?</i> Des'ree	Sony S2	4	2
US	single <i>Believe</i> Cher	WEA	1	1
album <i>Believe</i> Cher	WEA	7	7	

© Source: ARI, Mediabase, SoundScan, Radio Canada, EMI, Virgin UK, 100% AIRPLAY, ABS, Nielsen, Billboard, RPM, Communications and Marketing

The first Rocket/Mercury-issued single, Elton John's *LeAnn Rimes* debut *Written In The Stars*, is already appearing in charts around the world, including remaining in the top five in Canada where it debuted at four a fortnight ago. It is also only one of two UK-signed singles currently in the US Top 40 and is expected to be followed by several more singles from the album. The project's second key phase will take place in the autumn with the stage launch in Chicago and will move early next year to Broadway. There are no definite plans yet as far as a West End show is concerned.

Aida is backed with an enormous commitment from Elton himself, including undertaking two major TV appearances in Germany this Sunday (March 28), with France lined up for the next day. TV

promotion for Italy and Spain will follow on April 8 and 9, while the US schedule includes Oprah Winfrey, Jay Leno, Rosie O'Donnell and David Letterman. "Elton is just working, working, working and he's so excited about it because it's such a new direction for him. He's written film scores and music for animation but this is the first time he's written for the stage," says Thomas.

The singer was in New York last week during his current State-side tour for the first RIAA Diamond Awards — which recognise US sales of 10m, among them his own Greatest Hits — and he begins another leg of his US tour on May 21. A European tour starts on June 15, while he will be back in the States for more live dates at the end of August.



AMERICAN CHARTWATCH

by ALAN JONES

TLC hold off a spirited challenge from rapper C-Murder to spend their third consecutive week at number one on *Billboard's* album chart with *Fanmail*. The album sold 203,000 copies last week, while C-Murder sold more than 175,000 copies of his Bossalino album to debut at two. His album is yet another release on fellow rapper Master P's No Limit label and tops the number three peak of C-Murder's 1998 debut *Life Or Death*.

Listener Van Morrison (pictured) is one of the 40 most-charted artists in US album chart history and registers his 31st chart album in less than 32 years with his Pointblank/Virgin debut *Back On Top*. It debuts at number 28 and is, somewhat surprisingly, one of his highest charting albums to date. Van last climbed this high with *Wavelength*, 21 years and 20 albums ago, and has charted higher only twice, reaching number 15 with *Saint Dominic's Preview* in 1972 and number 27 with the following year's *Hard Nose The Highway*. His last album, *The Philosopher's Stone*, reached number 87 last year.

From south of the border, *The Corrs' Talk On Corners* is finally up and running, having just been released in the revamped version that is doing so well here. It makes its chart debut this week at number 177. Their first album, *Forgotten*, Not Forgotten reached number 131 in 1996.

There is good news too for Beth Orton, who commences her US chart career with *Central Reservation*. It debuts at number 110 on the main chart and at number two on the Heatsseekers chart, a nursery slope for developing acts without prior Top 100 album chart history.

Meanwhile, more than six months after they reached number two on the Heatsseekers list, *Five's* self-titled debut is still alive and kicking. With Slam Dunk (Da Funk) beginning to pick up airplay and newly released as a single, *Five's* album, jumps 194-163, having re-entered the Top 200 last week. And completing a rare week of good news for British artists, *Fatboy Slim's* album *You've Come A Long Way Baby* finally hits the Top 50 after a 13-week climb, moving 55-48. His *Praise You* single moves 71-64 and is the top five of the Modern Rock (airplay) chart. With *B'Witched's* UK-signed *C'est La Vie* surging 43-25 and former Soul II Soul member Nile Rodgers producing Australian movie producer Baz Luhrmann's novelty hit *Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)*, based on the UK-penned *Rozalla* song and debuting at number 61 — the week's only negative note comes for Elton John, whose introductory *Aida* single with LeAnn Rimes, *Written In The Stars*, dips 29-38.

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newsfile

BLUEBELLS SWITCHES TO WARNER/CHAPPELL
Warner/Chappell Music has signed Texas cowriter Bobby Bluebell — real name Robert Hodgson — following his departure from Anxious Music. The former member of The Bluebells, famous for their number one single Young At Heart, has carved out a lucrative songwriting career in recent years. She was nominated for an Ivor Novello in 1998 for co-writing Texas' Black Eyed Boy her co-verse tracks for the band's forthcoming album and has been writing with Sinéad O'Connor and theademics' Sophie Ellis-Bextor. The demo was struck by head of A&R Allison Donald and A&R manager Kehinde Oiarimmo alongside the rest of the A&R team. "We are delighted to have such a talented and diverse writer and also one of the funniest bloggers we've ever met," says Donald.

BACKSTREET BOYS ENLIST TOP WRITERS

Tracks by Shania Twain producer Mutt Lange and Boyzone producer Steve Lipson join those by writer and producer Mark Martin on the third Backstreet Boys album Millennium, released on May 18. The band finished the album in Orlando, Florida last week. Other tracks were done at Jive's Battery Studios in London and at Martin's Christian Studios in Stockholm, where he produced Britney Spears' Baby One More Time. A single, yet to be decided, is pencilled for April 26.

BILLY CRAWFORD IN THE MIX WITH BAGGIES

Stockholm's Marlyn Studios team of Amthor and Anders Bagge (Deetah, Boyzone) are mixing post-production tracks for V2's Billy Crawford. The 16-year-old singer, who last week opened Japan's new Hiffiger store, co-wrote upbeat dance track Supernatural with the pair and sang on their R&B number Come In To My Life.

INTERNET INITIATIVE FOR SUPERIOR QUALITY

Bluetones manager Neil Burrows is A&R acts for Superior Quality Recordings' new venture, an internet record shop to be launched by May 1. Burrows says the website (www.superiorqualityrecordings.co.uk), which will eventually move from being a mail-order service to harness MP3 technology, is being designed to have "the feel of a real record shop", complete with record racks and a demo dump bin. The idea for the internet label came about after 9,000 of the 15,000 copies The Bluetones sold of their last single, Four Day Weekend, were sold through their own site. Forthcoming material, along with the best of what is uncovered in the demo bin, will still be pressed up and sold in the high street, with the website acting as a complementary service. First releases will be by new signings The Superbs (Seven is released April 12), Velocino (Six Billion Dollar Man on April 17), The Rocking Horses (Big Pancakes Are In Control on May 3) and Lazbirds.

SHOLA SEEKS TRIBE VIBES FOR NEW ALBUM

Shola Ama is in New York last week working with A Tribe Called Quest's Ali Shaheed Muhammad on material for her second album. "She's so great form. We're hoping a collaboration with R Kelly will come later," says Ama's A&R man at WEA, Mickey D.

SHOUT! MP3-ONLY LABEL LAUNCHES

Shout It Out Loud, which claims to be the first online MP3 label releasing music by UK-based unsigned artists, launched last week. The label (www.shoutitoutloud.com) released the DSD4 track, Instillation Label Jacket, which has previously been available on CD.

Geri's debut set to confound the critics

by Stephen Jones

Former-chice Girl Geri Halliwell invites industry doubters and critics to take her at face-value with her Shirley Bassey-sounding first solo single, Look At Me, released on May 10.

The uplifting tune is a far from a formulaic pop number, demonstrating her distinctive voice and sassy charm, and has been deliberately chosen as her first post-Spice Girls material in order to make a statement.

EMI/Chrislays managing director Mark Collen says, "It doesn't sound like anything anyone expected. It comes somewhere between Shirley Bassey, Serge Gainsbourg and images of Tony Curtis driving around the south of France in an open-top Mercedes Sports car with Raquel Welch and her scarf blowing in the wind. It's certainly not a piece of bland pop product". As with much of her untitled album, Look At Me has been co-written by Halliwell and the Spice Girls writing team of 19/BMG Music's Absolute, aka Paul Wilson and Andy Watkins. Wilson says, "The single will surprise many people. It's a different sound, completely different but still keep her pop edge".

The video was shot in Prague on Thursday and Friday by Vaughn Aherl, who most recently directed the Brit Award-nominated videos for George Michael's Outside and Robbie Williams' Let Me Entertain You. Collen says: "The track makes a statement — 'look at me' — so the video will represent the different strands of Geri: is she serious or girly (Spice), saint or sinner, virgin or not?"

Halliwell — who late last year switched from Virgin to EMI and has been working with Robbie Williams' A&R Chris Briggs — has



Halliwell: keen to release early

been recording tracks she co-wrote last year at London's Olympic Studios since January in close secrecy.

Halliwell's material was originally not expected until late in the year but has progressed faster than expected, with EMI hoping to release the album as early as June if finishing touches are completed soon.

Halliwell's manager, Lisa Anderson, says, "She's powering on all cylinders right now. We were both keen to go early if possible, so we're delighted".

Collen adds, "She [Halliwell] is totally upfront. She's driving this project. Her vision is complete and she's unbelievably receptive to the ideas of people she's working with".

Mark 'Spice' Stent, currently working as co-producer with Noel Gallagher on Oasis's fourth album, has mixed some of the tracks on Halliwell's album.

The other co-writer on three tracks is understood to be Tracey Ackerman, who has enjoyed success writing with B*Witched. Further singles are rumoured to have more of a Seventies disco/pop feel.

Trauma sues Bush over 'missing' album

Trauma Records, the label set up by George Michael's former manager Rob Kahane, has filed a \$40m breach-of-contract lawsuit against Bush for failing to deliver their album.

The suit, filed a week last Friday in Los Angeles' Superior Court, alleges the act breached the terms of a 1996 recording agreement by non-delivery.

Furthermore, the suit alleges the band are shopping the album to another record company and may have already received advance payments and other compensations, although Trauma's lawyer Kirk Miller says, "We don't know that for definite".

"The album is owed by Bush to Trauma. Trauma has not yet decided on distribution," he says, adding that the case would probably take a year to come to trial.

The lawsuit has prompted a rebuttal from manager David Dorrell, who in a statement said: "Bush prefer to appear in court, not the courtroom. However, Trauma want to drag this through the courts, the band will oppose this matter vigorously and intend to prepare an appropriate response to the complaint when it is due".

Bush (pictured) are understood still to be signed to Trauma, which last June entered a worldwide distribution deal with BMG to replace the one it had with Interscope. It appears unclear, however, whether Trauma still own Interscope a Bush album under the old deal or not.

Accept The Signal, the debut album by V2/IBO's much-promoted ambient/psychedelic band Regular Files, features input by Mercury Rev, Death In Vegas' Tim Holmes and First Rate from London DJ outfit The Scratch Perverts. Released on May 17, it was finished at London's Fortress Studios last week after co-production/mixing work at Orinoco by Holmes (who has previously worked with The Aloof and Primal Scream) on first single King Kong (released on May 5). The Files were IBO's first signing last May after its deal with V2 ahead of fierce competition caused by their championing in the weekly alternative music press and singles on Florida Panda and sister label Rabid Badger. They are the first act to be A&R'd by former Heavily signed officer Robin Turner, who describes

Accept The Signal as a "huge space walk filmed by Vincent Gallo with De La Soul and Spiritualized on headphones". Mercury Rev produced one track, Anno Domini #1, in their own US studio. First Rate's scratching features on another, Can't Face The Animals, while Holmes and Dan Swift share the remaining mixing duties.



TV talent show gets its act together for bright new star Dejal

TV talent contests are nothing new, but from the off Get Your Act Together looked likely to turn up longer-lasting talent than Lena Zavaroni, Neil Reid, Mary Hopkins or Bernie Flint, all of whom saw chart success after appearing on Seventies TV talent contests such as Opportunity Knocks.

The idea for the Ronan Keating-presented show is that two contestants perform live before a studio audience following a 48-hour wait with record industry experts.

The buzz appears to have so far circled around one act in particular, 22-year-old R&B/pop soulstress Wendi Dejal from Catford, South East London, who appeared in the third programme in the series (the eighth and last before the final is broadcast this Saturday).

The Monday after she appeared with producer Nigel Lewis, he is rumoured to have received phonecalls from major label A&R executives who quickly showed from making jokes about his TV appearance to making serious enquiries about Dejal.



Get Your Act Together: Keating and Dejal

Lewis, who recently left 1st Avenue after eight years working with acts such as Louise, Eternal and Michelle Gayle to set up Soul City Productions, says Dejal easily stood out.

Although he is playing his cards close to his chest until after the final, Lewis is known to have been working on more ideas for Dejal than just the pop song she performed.

"The people who called were people I

have known and worked with over the years through contacts. It's not everyday you get calls, and I felt those albums best," he says.

"Their view was that although it's a TV programme for entertainment, she's the closest to a marketable pop star that has appeared, rather than performing in a kind of Stars In Their Eyes way."

Meanwhile, industry figures have reportedly approached other artists who have appeared on the show, among them the Pop 2000 recording contract. It was produced by Steve Levine, 24-year-old Londoner George Alexander (Gus Dudgeon) and Yvonne Tipping (Charlie Rapino).

It looks like some of these artists as runners up might even scoop as good a prize as the taken home by the winner of the final — a Polygram recording contract.

● Lewis' first act on Soul City Productions is the unsigned artist Natalie Jordan, who is tipped for success duetting on 911's next single Private Number, which will be released on April 5.

The burden of expectation can prove overwhelming when two high profile artists join forces — and such has certainly been the case with Johnny Marr and Bernard Sumner since they quit The Smiths and New Order to form Electronic.

After an outstanding debut album in 1991, the duo's follow-up, *Raise The Pressure*, took five years to materialise and disappointed many. But with their third album *Twisted Tenderness* (released on April 19) they return with a tough, vital sound that is a direct result of the reaction to their last album — and it rocks more than the Smiths or New Order ever did.

Sumner says, "We've never been part of any movement and neither were our previous bands, but there's always been pressure because they were regarded so highly. We get extra special attention and I think people ask for a bit too much."

Three years in the making, *Raise The Pressure* was received with something approaching boredom on its release in 1996 and despite retaining the melodic edge of their best work it sounded too slick and lightweight overall.

"Some of the criticisms levelled at it were valid, particularly that we'd airbrushed a lot of the spirit out of it by spending so long on it," says Marr. "We felt like there was a magnifying glass on us so, in turn, we put one on ourselves."

The duo wrote and recorded *Twisted Tenderness* in 12 months and sought to restore the lost edge. The results can be heard on the first single *Vivid*, released on April 5, which allies powerful rock guitar and Smithy harmonica to weighty, programmed beats, live drums and a typically deft, wistful tune.

Sumner says, "Raise The Pressure didn't hit the spot, so we felt we had to change things. A lot of the feedback we were getting suggested that there wasn't enough of Johnny's guitar and we had to agree he was under-utilised."

"Synthesizers were banned in The Smiths so when we began working together I brought all my synths into the studio and Johnny started to explore them. He wanted a holiday from the guitar, and so did I really."

The duo's refocused approach was reflected in the way they wrote the album's songs. Instead of writing in the

studio, putting down the technology first, they simply sat down with a guitar round at each other's homes, penning melodies and vocal lines.

Marr says, "It felt natural to plug in and write a song on the guitar again. We didn't want to spend a great deal of time on it. In the past we've used the studio as an instrument and we've written as we recorded. There's a place for that but this time we had most of the songs ready."

They worked up the songs in their home studios before



fleshing out the demos in April last year with a live band featuring former Black Grape drummer Jed Lynch and ex-Sub Sub bassist Jimmy Goodwin (now with Doves). They then went into Real World Studios between May and July, where they put down the songs with the aid of programmer and former Cameo keyboardist Merv De Peyer.

Producer Arthur Baker also came in and added his own sense of dynamics and groove to several tracks. Although Sumner had worked with him in the mid-Eighties on seminal

New Order tracks such as *Confusion* and *Thieves Like Us*, it was Marr's decision to approach Baker, who is now based in the UK.

"I felt that we had to stop working in isolation. We needed a sounding board because we tend to get cooconed. Arthur brought a sense of reality into the proceedings and told us when to stop. He's also great at getting a really aggressive sound together."

Given the relative commercial failure of *Raise The Pressure* — it sold less than 100,000 copies — the duo resisted the temptation to add some celebrity cameos into the mix as they had with Neil Tennant on their debut, and the label did not push them down such a path.

'It felt natural to plug in and write a song on the guitar again. We didn't want to spend a great deal of time on it' — Johnny Marr

Parlophone A&R director Miles Leonard says, "I think if we had suggested that it would have looked like we don't have any faith in them which is far from the truth. They deliver the thing as a whole but we knew at an early stage that it sounded good and we were happy to let them go on with it."

The result, he maintains, is Electronic's strongest record so far. "They knew what they wanted to do with the sound and they've made a really approachable but powerful record. Johnny's guitar sounds better than ever and that makes the whole thing sound so alive. There's a rock edge to it that Electronic haven't had before. It's almost like you only had half the story before."

The sound inevitably lends itself to live performance but the duo are unsure about whether they will tour for the first time since 1991, as Sumner intends to record again with *New Order* in the summer.

"I like to play live but it took us a long time to find the right musicians for the album and unless we can work with them I'm not sure," says Marr, non-committally.

Hopefully he will come round to the idea, since he has been absent from the stage too long. **Mike Pattenden**

Act: Electronic **Label:** Parlophone **Project:** single/album **Songwriters:** Sumner/Marr **Producers:** Electronic/Arthur Baker **Studio:** Real World **Publishing:** Warner/Chappell/PolyGram Music Publishing **Released:** April 5/April 19

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23 BRIGHTON PRESSURE POINT 25 LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE
27 SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY



TOP 75

27 MARCH 1998

UK	IRL	NEW	Title	Artist (Producer)	Publisher (Writer)	Label	CD/Cass (Distribution)	7712	NEW	Title	Artist (Producer)	Publisher (Writer)	Label	CD/Cass (Distribution)	7712	TITLES A-Z	
1		NEW	BLAME IT ON THE WEATHERMAN	Blondie	BMG	BMG	BMG	7712	38	18	THE WAY DREAMS ARE	Donna Summer	Capitol	Capitol	7712	1	Anything But Love
2	1		WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH	Paula Abdul	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	39	28	BETCHA CAN'T WAIT	Teletex	Capitol	Capitol	7712	2	As You Bended
3	2		BABY ONE MORE TIME	Brandy	Atlantic	Atlantic	Atlantic	7712	40	NEW	SURRENDER	Optima Arts	Optima Arts	Optima Arts	7712	3	Be My Love
4	3		STRONG	Christina Aguilera	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	41	27	EX-FACTOR	Lauren Hill	BMG	BMG	7712	4	Be My Love
5	4		WE LIKE TO PARTY! (THE VENOGUS)	Wendy Matthews	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	42	16	WHEN YOU'RE GONE	Shane Adams	Capitol	Capitol	7712	5	Be My Love
6	5		BETTER BESET FORGOTTEN	Cher	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	43	NEW	SLIDE	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	6	Be My Love
7	6		IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY	Whitney Houston	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	44	NEW	EVERYBODY GET UP	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	7	Be My Love
8	NEW		MY LOVE	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	45	NEW	SING IT BACK	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	8	Be My Love
9	NEW		MUSIC TO WATCH GIRLS BY	Andy Williams	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	46	NEW	GOTTA HAVE HOPE	Barry Manilow	Capitol	Capitol	7712	9	Be My Love
10	10		TENDER	Floyd	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	47	3	ONE WEEK	Reprise	Capitol	Capitol	7712	10	Be My Love
11	8		STRONG ENOUGH	Cher	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	48	37	BELIEVE	Janet Jackson	Capitol	Capitol	7712	11	Be My Love
12	NEW		PUSH UPDATES	Junior Boys Own	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	49	35	I WANT YOU BACK	Cher	Capitol	Capitol	7712	12	Be My Love
13	7		AS	George Michael	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	50	38	WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT?	George Michael	Capitol	Capitol	7712	13	Be My Love
14	5		YOU STOLE THE SUN FROM MY HEART	Maxi	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	51	NEW	CHILDREN	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	14	Be My Love
15	11		KILLIN' TIME	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	52	NEW	ENJOY YOURSELF	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	15	Be My Love
16	NEW		SEE THE STAR	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	53	NEW	I'M NOT READY	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	16	Be My Love
17	15		RUNAWAY (REMIX)	The Cure	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	54	3	CHARLIE GIB POTATO	Virgin	Virgin	Virgin	7712	17	Be My Love
18	17		CHANGES	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	55	21	WRITTEN IN THE STARS	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	18	Be My Love
19	12		WISH I COULD FLY	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	56	NEW	SAY YOU LOVE ME	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	19	Be My Love
20	14		LET'S GET DOWN	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	57	34	SAY YOU'VE BECOME	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	20	Be My Love
21	13		WRITING TO REACH YOU	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	58	20	CAN I GET A	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	21	Be My Love
22	NEW		RUST	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	59	23	WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	22	Be My Love
23	18		HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	60	19	PRETTY FLY (FOR A WHITE GUY)	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	23	Be My Love
24	16		NOTHING REALLY MATTERS	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	61	46	BOY YOU KNOCK ME OUT	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	24	Be My Love
25	19		HOW LONG'S A TEAR TAKE TO DRY	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	62	NEW	BELIEVE	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	25	Be My Love
26	20		MARIA	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	63	45	WESTSIDE	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	26	Be My Love
27	24		LULLABY	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	64	RE	TO YOU I BELONG	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	27	Be My Love
28	22		AT MY MOST BEAUTIFUL	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	65	29	THE WAY IT GOES	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	28	Be My Love
29	25		FLY AWAY	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	66	11	PRaise YOU	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	29	Be My Love
30	23		ERASE/REWIND	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	67	17	TEQUILA	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	30	Be My Love
31	26		JUST LOOKING	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	68	RE	WHEN YOU BELIEVE	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	31	Be My Love
32	27		PROTECT YOUR MIND (FOR THE LOVE OF A PRINCESS)	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	69	8	BORN TO BE WILD	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	32	Be My Love
33	28		STYLE	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	70	51	CRAYON	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	33	Be My Love
34	NEW		NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	71	3	CAN'T GET ENOUGH	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	34	Be My Love
35	29		YOU DON'T KNOW ME	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	72	NEW	SAY	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	35	Be My Love
36	NEW		DO YOU FEEL ME? (...FREAK YOU)	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	73	4	ANYTHING BUT DOWN	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	36	Be My Love
37	30		GOODBYE	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	Capitol	7712	74	6	A TOUCH OF LOVE	En Vogue	Capitol	Capitol	7712	37	Be My Love

As used by Top Of The Pops and Radio One



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27 MARCH 1999

CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



After trailing **Boyzone's** When The Going Gets Tough for the whole week, **B*Witched's** Blame It On The Weatherman finally squeezed ahead at the death to become the Irish girls' fourth consecutive number one. The first act ever to **claim a number one** with their first four singles. **B*Witched** are also only the second act to open their chart career with more than three consecutive number ones, the others being the Spice Girls, who topped the chart with their first seven releases.

Blame It On The Weatherman sold only 90,000 copies last week, 3,000 more than When The Going Gets Tough and 6,000 more than **Britney Spears' Baby One More Time** but earns the Lynch fairy the unique distinction of becoming the first in chart history to replace itself at number one - **Shane Lynne** is a member of Boyzone, while his sisters **Keavy** and **Edoie** are in **B*Witched**.

Robbie Williams registers his ninth solo hit with **Strong**, which debuts at number four. It's **Robbie's** eighth Top 10 hit and his fifth hit in a row to reach the top five including all three lifted from his latest album I've Been Expecting You. With **Andy Williams** at number nine, it's worth noting that there

MARKET REPORT



hit with **Strong**, which debuts at number four. It's **Robbie's** eighth Top 10 hit and his fifth hit in a row to reach the top five including all

SINGLE FACTFILE

Veteran crooner **Andy Williams** returns to the Top 10 for the first time since 1943, debuting at number nine with **Music To Watch Girls By**. The 70-year old cut the song, which was originally conceived as an instrumental for a **Q&A Pepsi** advert, in 1967, when it reached number 33 in the UK and number 34 in America. The song is currently used for the **Flat Panto** advert, graphics from which adorn the

single's sleeve. Only two artists have returned to the Top 10 after a lengthy absence than **Williams - Prez Prado** and **Louis Armstrong - and, like him**, they also returned via the use of an ad in a TV advert, though, unlike **him**, they **did** before their comeback hit. **Andy**, on the other hand, has appeared on a number of TV shows here in the past couple of weeks, including **TFI Friday** and **Good Morning**.

have been 21 solo chart stars with the surname **Williams**, making it by far the most successful name for hitmakers. The **Jones's** are runners-up, with 17 different hitmakers of that name. Incidentally, the **Robbie Williams/Gary Barlow** feed is set to continue, with **Gary's** upcoming comeback single apparently titled **Stronger**. It's a cute card to play, though it does leave the way open for **Robbie** to return with a track called **Stronger**.

When **Frenchman Bob Sinclar** refused to release his popular album **track Gym Tonic** as a single, UK duo **Spacecadet** quickly rushed out their re-titled cover **Gym And Tonic**, and were rewarded with a number one hit. They return to the chart this week with their follow-up **Let's Get Down**, which debuts at number 20. It's based on **Chic's** classic **I Want You Love**, which was the subject of a full-blown cover version by **Roger Sanchez** and **Twilight**, reaching number 31 last month.

INDEPENDENT SINGLES

This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label/Description
1	2	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	Jive 622792 (P)
2	1	BETTER BEHIND FORGOTTEN	Steps	Epic/EMI 013242 (P)
3	4	PUSH UPSTAIRS	Underworld	JBO/V2 JB050545 (3MV/P)
4	5	KILLIN' TIME	Tina Cousins	Jive/Eastern Bloc 0519232 (P)
5	3	SEE THE STAR	Dolores/Oz	Parlophone 01020395 (V)
6	4	CHANGES	2Pac	Jive 622632 (P)
7	3	JUST LOOKING	Stereophonics	V2 VVB045033 (3MV/P)
8	NEW	SLIDE	Go Go Dols	Hollywood 0102039HW (P)
9	5	HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY	Steps	Epic/EMI 013242 (P)
10	NEW	SING IT BACK	Moloko	Echo EDCS011 (P)
11	NEW	NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD	Take 5	Edel 0039358EE (P)
12	6	SAY YOU'LL BE MINE	J.F.X.	Quality Recordings 00AL0950 (P)
13	12	I BELIEVE	Jamietown feat. Jocelyn Brown	Playboy 081376PLA (P)
14	11	BE THERE	UNKLE feat. Ian Brown	Mo Wax MW108CD1 (V)
15	NEW	WORLD 99	Pulp Victim	Neo NEO12010 (Amato Disco)
16	8	PLAYING WITH KNIVES	Bizarro Inc	Vinyl Solution VCD01CD1 (V)
17	NEW	S	Creatures	Sloox S10UVC6 (3MV/P)
18	NEW	COMMUNITY OF THE SPIRIT	Danny Rampling	Distance 0113212 (P)
19	NEW	TO LOSE LA TREK	Campag Veicot	PIAS Recordings PIASX01CD (V)
20	NEW	HOW WILL I KNOW (WHO YOU ARE)	Jessica	Jive 6226412 (P)

PEPSI Chart

This Week	Last Week	Title/Artist	Label
1	1	BLAME IT ON THE WEATHERMAN (B*Witched)	Virgin
2	2	WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH (Steps)	Parlophone
3	3	BARBY ONE MORE TIME (Britney Spears)	Jive
4	4	STRONG (Robbie Williams)	Chrysalis
5	5	WE LIKE TO PARTY (THE VENGLOES)	Parlophone
6	6	BETTER BEHIND FORGOTTEN (Steps)	Parlophone
7	7	IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY (Hector & The Newdada)	Arise
8	NEW	MY LOVE (Kula Bitch)	Wilex
9	NEW	MUSIC TO WATCH GIRLS BY (Andy Williams)	Columbia
10	10	TENDER (Blue)	Foxtrot/Parlophone
11	11	AS YOURS (Michael Varty & Bigge)	Epic
12	12	RUNAWAY (The Corrs)	Arise
13	13	YOU STOLE THE SUN... (Mickie Stone & Freshers)	Virgin
14	14	FLY AWAY (Lenny Kravitz)	Virgin
15	15	STRONG ENOUGH (Cher)	Mercury
16	16	MARIA (Travis)	Parlophone/EMI
17	17	LULLABY (Damon Albarn)	Columbia
18	18	ERASE/REWRITE (The Dingles)	Stockholm/Parlophone
19	19	YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE (Stevie Nicks)	MCA
20	20	WHEN YOU'RE GONE (Sade & The Roots)	MCA
21	21	NOTHING REALLY MATTERS (Madonna)	Maverick
22	22	HOW LONG'S A TEAR TAKING TO DRY (The Beautiful People)	Columbia
23	23	ONE WEEK (Ben & Jelen)	Arise
24	24	WISH I COULD FLY (Laurie Raskin)	Arise/Parlophone
25	25	YOU DON'T KNOW ME (Andrew & The Back)	Arise
26	26	DEAD FROM THE WAIST DOWN (Celine Dion)	Polygram
27	27	PRAYISE YOU (Felix Dain)	Arise
28	28	EX-FACTOR (Lauryn Hill)	Polygram/Columbia
29	29	SLIDE (Go Go Dols)	Edel
30	30	JUST LOOKING (Stereophonics)	Jive
31	31	PUSH UPSTAIRS (Underworld)	JBO/V2
32	32	KILLIN' TIME (Sade)	Virgin
33	33	CHANGES (2Pac)	Jive
34	34	WRITING TO REACH YOU (Travis)	Independent
35	35	MUSIC SOUNDS BETTER WITH YOU (Sade)	Virgin
36	36	CAN'T GET ENOUGH (Sade)	Parlophone
37	37	LET'S GET DOWN (Sade)	Parlophone
38	38	AT MY MOST BEAUTIFUL (M. Horner)	Mercury
39	39	MY FAVOURITE GAME (The Goodies)	Dunham/Polygram
40	40	ANYTHING BUT DOWN (Daryl Rowe)	Arise/Polygram

TO hear the chart hot-off-the-press on Monday morning, call 0891 505290. Calls cost 50p min.

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CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



Blur register their fourth consecutive number one album this week, debuting in pole position with 13, which sold nearly 92,000 copies last week. Give or take a couple of hundred, that equals the first week sales of their self-titled 1997 album. The Great Escape opened with a massive 188,000 in 1995, while Parklife opened their sequence of number ones with a paltry 43,000 in 1994. Blur are the

ALBUM FACTFILE

third act to have four number one albums in the nineties, equalling the mark set by Simply Red and REM. The success of the introductory single Tender Is one of the main reasons for the success of 13. Tender remains in the Top 10 for the fourth straight week, having sold a total of 320,000 copies. The only previous Blur single to spend four weeks in the Top 10 was 1995's Country House.

Blur debut at number one for the fourth time in their career this week with 13 – but it's lucky they chose not to clash head-to-head with The Stereophonics' Performance And Cocktails, which they replace at number one. The Stereophonics album sold 45,000 copies last week, just under half as many as 13. But the 92,000 sale of Blur's album pale compared to the 120,000 tally racked up by The Stereophonics last week.

It's a fine week for Beth Orton, who makes her first ever US album chart appearance this week, with Central Reservation debuting at number 110 there while making its opening UK chart appearance at number 17. It's Beth's second album, and its current chart position marks a major improvement over the number 68 peak of her first album, Trailer Park, which peaked at number 68 but was widely acclaimed and went on to win her a Brits nomination as Best Female Solo Artist. Central Reservation is certain to achieve a

MARKET REPORT

TOP 10 COMPANIES

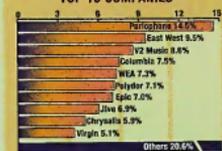


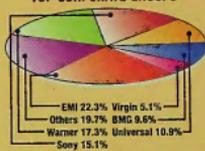
Figure shows the 10 companies by % of total sales, and copyright group share by % of total sales of the Top 20 artists.

SALES UPDATE

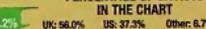


similar feat next year – not least because so few British female artists ever venture into the Top 20 of the album chart.

TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART



Having initially returned to the chart as a direct result of her death, Dusty Springfield's The Best Of Dusty Springfield is now being TV

advertised, precipitating a further improvement in its chart performance. It jumps 27-20 this week, becoming her fourth Top 20 hits compilation, following Golden Hits (number two, 1966), The Silver Collection (number 14, 1988) and 'Goin' Back – The Very Best Of Dusty Springfield (number five, 1994). The Best Of Dusty Springfield has sold 40,000 copies so far. Meanwhile, Cher loses her Top 10 placings on both the singles and albums charts, slipping 8-11 with Strong Enough, the second single from the album Believe, which itself slips to number 16, having achieved its best-ever position of number seven last week.

Catalogue discount campaigns have a significant effect on the album chart this week, with the biggest impressions being made by Tracy Chapman's self-titled debut (up 90-24), Lou Reed's Transformer (re-entry at number 41) and Primal Scream's Screamadelica (1-74-45).

COMPILATIONS

The compilation market continues to falter. Sales plummeted over 27% last week, with multi-artist releases accounting for only 21.8% of overall album sales – their lowest figure of the year. Only one compilation topped 20,000 sales, with two more notching up sales of over 10,000.

Debuting at number one, Dance Nation Six is the latest release from one of the sector's brightest current stars, the Ministry of Sound label. Dance Nation Six contains mixes from Brandon Block and Tall Paul and hits by the likes of Armand Van Helden, Soulsearcher and – on CD for the first time ahead of its Pepper/Live release as a single – Shanks & Bigfoot's Sweet Like Chocolate. Dance Nation Six sold more than 22,000 copies last week, 10,000

more than Resident – Two Years Of Oakenfold At Cream, the anniversary set which features primarily records that he either mixed or released on his own Perfecto label. With Euphoria in third place (£1,700 sales) and Pete Tong's Essential Selection – Spring 1999 fourth with 9,800 sales, the top four compilations are all dance-themed.

One of the biggest successes of the Dino label, which closed down last year, was the Blues Brother Soul Sister series, which has now been revived by Universal TV. The renamed PolyGram TV division used generic artwork and cherry-picked favourite tracks from the Dino series for Blues Brother Soul Sister Classics, which debuts at number eight this week, with sales of a little over 6,000.

MARKET REPORT

TOP 10 COMPANIES

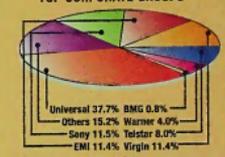


Figure shows the 10 companies by % of total sales of the Top 20 corporate group share by % of total sales of the Top 20.

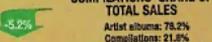
SALES UPDATE



TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



COMPILATIONS' SHARE OF TOTAL SALES



INDEPENDENT ALBUMS

This Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	Stereophonics	V2 VVR 100482 (MMV/P)
2	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Fatboy Slim	Skin BRASSIC110 (MMV/P)
3	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	Epic 0522172 (P)
4	STEP ONE	Slingshot	Ebu/Jive 0519172 (P)
5	BEAUFOUR FISH	Underworld	JBO/V2 2001005438 (MMV/P)
6	SCREAMADELICA	Primal Scream	Creation CRECD018 (MMV/P)
7	GREATEST HITS	Z'ev	Jive 052262 (P)
8	VERSION 2.0	Garbage	Mushroom MUSH280 (MMV/P)
9	WORD GETS AROUND	Stereophonics	V2 VVR1000432 (MMV/P)
10	BIG CALM	Morcheeba	Indochina ZEN017CD (P)
11	CARBAGE	Garbage	Mushroom D31469 (MMV/P)
12	FIN DE SIECLE	Divine Comedy	Selena SETH0052 (V)
13	THE COMPLETE	Everlast	Silverstone CRECD035 (P)
14	THE BOY WITH THE ARAB STRAP	Belle and Sebastian	Jeepster JPRCD031 (MMV/P)
15	WHITNEY FORD SINGS THE BLUES	Charlaines	Tommy Boy BBO1236 (P)
16	MELTING POT	Oasis	Beggars Banquet BRCC0198 (V)
17	DEFINITE MAYBE	Qasla	Creation CRECD169 (MMV/P)
18	SONGBIRD	Eve Cassidy	Blix Street SBT10045 (HOT)
19	DESERTER'S SONGS	Mercury Rev	V2 VVR100272 (MMV/P)
20	STONE ROSES	Stone Roses	Silverstone CRECD502 (P)

THE YEAR SO FAR... TOP 20 ALBUMS

This Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	TALK ON CORNERS	THE CORRS	143/WARNER/COLUMBIA
2	I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	CHRYSALIS
3	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	FATBOY SLIM	SKIN
4	THE MISSED EDUCATION OF STEPS	LAYRIN HILL	RUFFHOUSE/COLUMBIA
5	STEP ONE	STEPS	EMLIVE
6	LADIES & GENTLEMEN - THE BEST OF THE CORRS	GEORGE MICHAEL	143/WARNER/COLUMBIA
7	FORGIVEN, NOT FORGOTTEN	THE CORRS	POLYDOR
8	WHERE WE BELONG	BOYZONE	MAGNAC STREET PREACHERS
9	THIS IS US MY TRUTH TELL ME YOURS	MACDONNA	MAVVERICK
10	RAY OF LIGHT	MACDONNA	V2
11	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	STEREOPHONICS	CHRYSALIS
12	LIFE THROUGH A LENS	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	STOCKHOLM/POLYDOR
13	GARAN TURISMO	CANDICANS	WEA
14	BELIEVE	CHER	COLUMBIA
15	10 BIG WILLE STYLE	WILL SMITH	M PEOPLE
16	THE BEST OF	M PEOPLE	ISLAND
17	THE BEST OF 1980-1990	U2	M PEOPLE
18	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	WHITNEY HOUSTON	ARISTA
19	NO EXIT	BLOOMER	ROCKAWAY
20	VERSION 2.0	CARBAGE	MUSHROOM

© CN Last figures represent the chart placing from the last published Top 20 for compilation chart

27
march
1999

Singles



- 1** **1 BLAME IT ON THE WEATHERMAN**
By Witches
Glow Worm/Cpic
Polydor
- 2** WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH
Boyzone
Jive
- 3** BABY ONE MORE TIME
Britney Spears
Chrysalis
- 4** STRONG
Robbie Williams
Chrysalis
- 5** WE LIKE TO PARTY! (THE VENGABUS)
Vengaboys
Positiva
- 6** BETTER BEST FORGOTTEN Steps
Ebu/Jive
- 7** IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY
Whitney Houston
Arista
- 8** MY LOVE
Kelle Le Roc
1st Avenue/Wild Card/Polydor
- 9** MUSIC TO WATCH GIRLS BY
Andy Williams
Columbia
- 10** TENDER BLUR
Food/Parlophone



- 11** STRONG ENOUGH
Cher
WEA
- 12** PUSH UP STAIRS
Underworld
Junior Boy's Own/V2
- 13** AS GEORGE MICHAEL & MARY J BLIGE
Epic
- 14** YOU STOLE THE SUN FROM MY HEART
Manic Street Preachers
Epic
- 15** KILLIN' TIME
Tina Cousins
Jive/Eastern Bloc
- 16** SEE THE STAR DELIRIOUS?
Furious?
Atlantic
- 17** RUNAWAY (REMIX)
The Corrs
Atlantic
- 18** CHANGES 2
Pec
- 19** WISH I COULD FLY
Roxette
EMI

THE OFFICIAL CHARTS

my music week
AS USED BY

TOP
OF THE
POPS!

BBC RADIO 1



- 1** **13 BLUR**
Food/Parlophone
- 2** PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS
Stereophonics
V2
- 3** TALK ON CORNERS
The Corrs
Atlantic
- 4** I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU
Robbie Williams
Chrysalis
- 5** BABY ONE MORE TIME
Britney Spears
Jive
- 6** THE MIS EDUCATION OF LAURYN HILL
Lauryn Hill
Columbia
- 12** THIS IS MY TRUTH
TELL ME YOURS
Manic Street Preachers
Epic
- 10** FORGIVEN, NOT FORGOTTEN
The Corrs
Atlantic
- 14** STEP ONE
Steps
Jive/Ebu
- 16** GRAN TURISMO
The Cardigans
Stockholm



- 17** RAY OF LIGHT
Madonnna
Maverick
- 18** YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY
Baby Face
Skins
- 5** MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE
Whitney Houston
Arista
- 6** LADIES & GENTLEMEN - THE BEST OF
George Michael
Epic
- 11** BACK ON TOP
Van Morrison
Pointblank/Virgin
- 7** BELIEVE
Cher
WEA
- 17** CENTRAL RESERVATION
Beth Orton
Heavenly
- 13** GOLD - GREATEST HITS
Abba
Polygram
- 9** PEASANTS, PIGS & ASTRONAUTS
Kula Shaker
Columbia

des'ree
you gotta be
1999 mix

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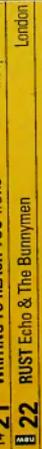


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11 20 LET'S GET DOWN Spacedust



14 21 WRITING TO REACH YOU Travis



14 22 RUST Echo & The Bunnymen



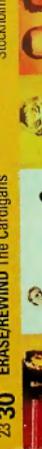
20 23 HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY Steps



16 24 NOTHING REALLY MATTERS Madonna



12 25 HOW LONG'S A TEAR TAKE TO DRY? The Beautiful South



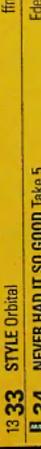
19 26 MARIA Blondie



24 27 LULLABY Shawn Mullins



10 28 AT MY MOST BEAUTIFUL REM Warner Brothers



22 29 FLY AWAY Lenny Kravitz



23 30 ERASE/REWIND The Carpenters



21 31 JUST LOOKING Stereophonics



25 32 PROTECT YOUR MIND (FOR THE LOVE OF A PRINCESS) DJ Slick & Friends



13 33 STYLE Orbital

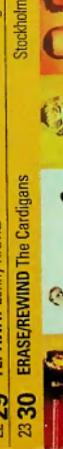
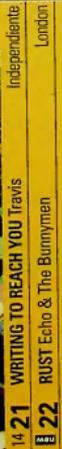


13 34 NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD Take 5



32 35 YOU DON'T KNOW ME Armand Van Helden feat. Duane Harden

11 19 WISH I COULD FEEL LOVE



compilations

1 **DANCE NATION SIX - ALL PAUL & BUCK** 12 11
Ministry Of Sound
Island

2 **RESIDENT - 2 YEARS OF UNDERGROUND AT CREAM** 15 12
EMI/Virgin/PolyGram

3 **EUPHORIA** 13 13
Island TV
EMI/Virgin/PolyGram

4 **TONG - ESSENTIAL SELECTION - SPRING 1999** 16 14
Island TV
NCC/Island

5 **LOVE SONGS** 1 15
Universal TV/Warner
Columbia

6 **KISS LOVE NATION** 18 16
Universal TV
Vegetal

7 **IN THE MIX 2000** 8 17
Vegetal
Universal TV

8 **BUMS BROTHER SOUL SISTER CLASSICS** 17 18
Universal TV
Columbia

9 **THE LOVE SONGS OF BURT BACHARACH** 19 19
Universal TV
wateresp/Global TV/Sony TV

10 **THE 80'S LOVE ALBUM** 10 20
Vegetal
Universal TV/Sony TV

27 20 **THE BEST OF DUSKY Springfield**
Mercury/Universal TV

15 21 **LIFE THRU A LENS Robbie Williams**
Polygram
Chrysalis

19 22 **WHERE WE BELONG Boyzone**
Junior Boy's Own/MCA

20 23 **BEAUCOUP FISH Underworld**
Elektra
Beyond/RTI
wateresp/Global TV

21 25 **NO EXIT Blondie**
Glow/Worrry/Epic

22 26 **NOBODY DOES IT BETTER - THE VERY BEST OF Carly Simon**
Go/Discs/Mercury
Columbia

28 27 **B*WITCHED B**Witched**
Goi/Discs/Mercury

28 28 **QUENCH The Beautiful South**
Columbia

28 29 **NEON BALLROOM Silverchair**
Columbia

31 30 **GREATEST HITS 2Pac**
Lafayette/Arista

39 31 **FANMAIL TLC**
EMI/Virgin

23 32 **ATOMIC/ATOMIX - THE VERY BEST OF Blondie**
Columbia

37 33 **BIG WILLIE STYLE Will Smith**
Mushroom

35 35 **VERSION 2.0 Garbage**
RCA

26 36 **GREATEST HITS Eurythmics**
Island

34 37 **THE BEST OF 1980-1990 U2**
A&M/Polygram

33 38 **THE GLOBE SESSIONS Sheryl Crow**
M People/BMG

36 40 **WORD GETS AROUND Stereophonics**
V2

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CLASSICAL SPECIALIST

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	VIAGGIO ITALIANO	Andrea Bocelli	Philips 4621362 (U)
2	NEW	RACHMANINOV'S PETERS	Choir Of King's College/Cebsbury	EMI Classics CDC59632 (E)
3	4	VOICE OF AN ANGEL	Charlote Church	Sony Classical SK 6692 (S)
4	4	HANDELMAN/BRUNN	Scholl	Hermannia Music HMC91485 (RM)
5	3	CECILIA & OLYMPIA DUETS	Deff/Accademia DR/Ching	Decca 458292 (S)
6	5	ELGAR/CELLO CONCERTO/SEA PICTURES	Baker/Du Pre/Strauss/Barrilli	EMI Classics CDC59631 (S)
7	19	PREISNER/REQUIEM FOR MY FRIEND	Sinfonia Varsovia/Kasparyk	Erato 299741482 (W)
8	7	THE PURE VOICE OF...	Emma Kirkby	Decca 462632 (U)
9	NEW	ELGAR/VIVIN CONCERTO	Manuel/Ho/Roho/Egar	Capitol CDMS6792 (E)
10	17	RAUTAVAARA/CANTUS ARCTICUS	Royal Scottish Nat. Ork/Linda	Naxos 855417 (S)
11	18	CHOPIN/PIANO CONCERTI 1 & 2	Angelic/Montreal SO/Dutoit	EMI Classics CDC 556782 (E)
12	16	BETHOVEN/MOSELSON/VIVIN CONCERTO	Menahin/PO/Br/Funberger	EMI Classics CDC 556782 (E)
13	8	SAINTE SAENS-CARNIVAL OF ANIMALS	Morris	Naxos AudioBooks 850463 (S)
14	16	BRUCKNER/SYMPHONY NO.7	Ronald/Trotter	Naxos 852458 (S)
15	6	WOLFGANG BUSSE	Madellav Baebes	Venture COVE 941 (E)
16	10	BLISS/ST MIRACLE IN THE GOBBALS	Queenland SO/London-Gee	Naxos 850598 (S)
17	13	FINZL/CANTATA CONCERTO	Plana/Northern Sinfonia	Naxos 855566 (S)
18	NEW	MAHLER/SYMPHONY NO.9	PO/Candor	Telarc CDMS6273 (BMG)
19	12	TAVENER/THE PROTECTING VEIL	Kievgl/Hubs/Uster ORC/Naxos	Naxos 850388 (S)
20	NEW	MOZART/PIANO CONCERTO	Bernami Britten	Bco Legends BBC80462 (P)

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JAZZ & BLUES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	2	KIND OF BLUE	Miles Davis	Columbia KC 6455 (SM)
2	NEW	THE DIRTY DOGGIE	Brian Setzer Orchestra	Interscope IND00161 (BMG)
3	1	THE BEST OF LATIN JAZZ	Various	Global Television RAD08 (BMG)
4	3	BLUE FOR YOU - THE VERY BEST OF	Nina Simone	Global Television RAD08 (BMG)
5	4	BLUES BLUES BLUES	Jimmy Rogers	Atlantic 756793482 (W)
6	5	TURN ON TUNE IN!	Jazz FM JAZZFMCD 15 (BMG/BMG)	
7	6	THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION	Janis Joplin	Columbia SOUITY 5205 (SM)
8	NEW	BAGUZZI	Erykah Badu	NCA UD 5302 (BMG)
9	8	VERY BEST OF JAZZ AFTER DARK	Various	Global Television RAD011 (BMG)
10	10	MAD ABOUT THE BOY - THE VERY BEST OF	Dinah Washington	Clinson CRMCD54 (EUK)

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R&B SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No. (Distributor)
1	1	IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY	Whitney Houston	Arista 74321934202 (BMG)
2	NEW	MY LOVE	Kyle R. Roc	1st Avenue/Wid Card/Polydor 56381 (2) (U)
3	2	AS	George Michael & Mary J. Blige	Epic 6670132 (SM)
4	3	CHANGES	2Pac	Jive 0228293 (P)
5	5	DO YOU FEEL ME?... (FREAK YOU)	M. P. Of Vision	MJJ/Epic 6626015 (S)
6	5	EX-FACTOR	Lauryn Hill	Columbia 690662 (SM)
7	6	I'M NOT READY	Keith Sweat	Elektra 673922 (SM)
8	4	WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT	Ginuwine	Def. Jam 568872 (U)
9	8	CAN I GET A...	Jay-Z feat. Amil & Ja Rule	Universal/UD 56230 (BMG)
10	9	ENJOY YOURSELF	Bizarré Inc	Vineyl Solution VU 01021 (V)
11	10	PLAYING WITH KNIVES	BT	Epic 6688105 (SM)
12	10	WESTSIDE	Teyana Ai feat. Will Smith	MJJ/Epic 6688703 (SM)
13	12	BOY YOU KNOCK ME OUT	Foxy Brown	Def. Jam 8103652 (U)
14	9	HOT SPOT	Tylerand/Missy Elliott/Mogoo	Jive DINSO 179 (E)
15	13	HERE WE COME	Sly & Robbie	Palm Picture PPOD 70072 (JMV/S&P)
16	NEW	SOFTWARE SURGE	The Roots feat. Erykah Badu	MCA MCST 48110 (BMG)
17	14	YOU GOT ME	98 Degrees	Motown 8205912 (U)
18	11	BECAUSE OF YOU	Dru Hill	Island Black Music CD 725 (U)
19	15	THESE ARE THE TIMES	Busta Rhymes	Elektra 673922 (SM)
20	18	GIMME SOME MORE	Another Level/Ghostface Killah	NorthernWestside 74321934202 (BMG)
21	17	I WANT YOU FOR MYSELF	Jay-Z	NorthernWestside 74321934202 (BMG)
22	NEW	HARD KNOCK LIFE (GHE TO ANTHEM)	Herbiey	1st Avenue/Wid Card/Polydor 56381 (2) (U)
23	16	END OF THE LINE	Brandy & Monica	Atlantic 42 00367 (M)
24	22	THE BOY IS IMPORED	Enimem	Interscope INT 95044 (Import)
25	NEW	MY NAME IS	Enimem	Interscope INT 95044 (Import)
26	24	MIAH	Will Smith	Columbia 6667872 (SM)
27	21	RUSH	Klashay	Epic KLECD (SM)
28	20	GET ON THE BUS	Destiny's Child feat. Timbaland	East West 5E 23902 (CD)
29	23	HEARTBEAT HOTEL	Whitney Houston feat. Sade	Arista 70282136139 (Import)
30	27	HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE	Dru Hill	Island Black Music CD 725 (U)

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MUSIC VIDEO

This	Last	Title	Label Cat. No.
1	1	STEPS The Video	Epic/Jive 0219175
2	2	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: Cats	PolyGram Video 47993
3	5	THE CORBS Live At The Royal Albert Hall	Werner Music Video 7507887 (3)
4	3	GEORGE MICHAEL/Ladies & Gentlemen - Best Of	SMV Epic 720832
5	4	THE CARPENTERS/Close To You - Remembering	Second Sight 7802121
6	6	ROBBIE WILLIAMS/Live In Your Living Room	Chrysalis 671463
7	7	CLIFF RICHARD/4th Anniversary Concert	Video Collection V0447
8	10	VARIOUS ARTISTS/Andrew Lloyd Webber-Celebration	PolyGram Video 57983
9	8	RONAN HARDINGMAN/Michael Flatley's Fast Of Flamas	VL 559523
10	11	BOYZONE/Live - Where We Belong	VL 558663

This	Last	Title	Label Cat. No. (Distributor)
11	9	VARIOUS ARTISTS/Hey Mr. Producer!	Video Collection V0416
12	13	LIVE CAST RECORDING: Les Misérables in Concert	Video Collection V0328
13	12	DANIEL O'DONNELL/Mary O'Flaherty - Give A Little Love	RSR 1027
14	19	STEREOPHONICS/Live At Cardiff	Visual VVS 3247
15	18	JIMI HENDRIX/Best Of Gypsy	MCA Music Video MV01131
16	22	METALLICA/Unsung Heroes	PolyGram Video 6067663
17	23	SPICE GIRLS/End Of A Wonderful Stadium	Visual VVS234
18	14	MICHAEL FLATLEY/Lad Of The Dance	VL 41183
19	20	TUR AMOS/The Complete Videos - 1991-1998	Werner Music Video 7507852 (3)
20	NEW	U2/Puppets	PolyGram Video 588320

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CLASSICAL CROSSOVER

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	NEW	BEST CHORAL ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER!	Various	Virgin/EMI VTDCC022 (S)
2	1	TITANIC (OST)	James Horner	Sony Classical SK C023 (SM)
3	2	MOST RELAXING CLASSICAL ALBUM...EVER!	Various	Virgin/EMI VTDCC 207 (E)
4	4	MOST RELAXING CLASSICAL ALBUM...EVER!	Various	Virgin/EMI VTDCC 155 (E)
5	NEW	DESERI BLAND/25 CELESTIAL PIANO CASTINGS	Various Artists	BBC Music VMC 9032 (P)
6	3	BACK TO TITANIC	James Horner	Sony Classical SK 6692 (S)
7	6	THE ONLY CLASSICAL ALBUM YOU'VE EVER NEED	Various	Conifer Classics 756051332 (BMG)
8	8	REQUIEM - SPIRITUAL MUSIC TO UPLE...	Andre Previn	Decca 466192 (U)
9	NEW	A PORTRAIT	Stephen Warlock	Sony Classical SK 6692 (S)
10	7	SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (OST)	LSD/Homer	Decca 443821 (U)
11	14	BRAYSHAW/ET	Lesley Garrett	BBC/EMI/Capitol 756051332 (BMG)
12	9	LESEY GARRETT	Various	BBC Music VMC90708 (P)
13	8	DESERT ISLAND DISCS	Various	Decca 466192 (U)
14	12	CORLANDANARE FOR THE COMMON MAN	Various	RCA Victor 294263232 (BMG)
15	13	THE THIN RED LINE - OST	Hans Zimmer	Silva Screen SILKTV004 (Koch) (U)
16	11	A SOPRANO IN LOVE	Lesley Garrett	warners.asp 398425542 (Warner Music)
17	10	SIMPLY THE BEST CLASSICAL ANTHEMS	Various	Virgin Classics CD008A2 (EAM)
18	NEW	TWILIGHT	Various	Philips 446376 (U)
19	NEW	MISSA	Various	Philips 446376 (U)
20	17	HILARY AND JACKIE	OST	Sony Classical SK0394 (SM)

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ROCK

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	NEW	NEON BALLROOM	Silverchair	Columbia 663399 (SM)
2	NEW	GIVING THE GAME AWAY	Thunder	Eagle Eagle/24 (SM/BMG)
3	1	AMERICANA	The Offspring	Columbia 663399 (SM)
4	3	GARAGE	Garbage	Mastermind D 31450 (JMV/P)
5	7	BLOOD SUGAR SEX MAGIK	Red Hot Chili Peppers	Washburn 759062812 (U)
6	8	NEVERIMIND	Nirvana	Geffan DGC 29425 (BMG)
7	2	NINE LIVES	Aerostorm	Columbia 4567000 (SM)
8	6	STOOSH	Skunk Anansie	One Line Limited TFLP 8530 (P)
9	4	EXPERIENCE HENDRIX - THE BEST OF	Jim Hendrix	Telstar TV TTVC 280 (U)
10	5	GARAGE INC.	Metallica	Vertigo 538252 (U)

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DANCE SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No. (Distributor)
1	NEW	EVERYBODY GET UP	Capiclio	Defected DEFECT 2R (JMV/SM)
2	1	BAMBARRA 2012	Shy FX	Ebony ERN 0007R (SRC)
3	NEW	SING IT BACK	Moloko	Epic EC5Y 71 (P)
4	NEW	CHILDREN	TiH	Deconstruction 7432148171 (BMG)
5	NEW	THE KNOWN/UNKNOWN SESSIONS	Unknown	Audio Culture AC 20 (SRC)
6	NEW	MORE GET	Mousse T.	Paragon PAMS 6037 (Import)
7	2	SPRAWLING PUNCH	Usual Suspects	Renegade Hardware RH 917 (SRC)
8	NEW	PUSH UPSTAIRS	Underworld	Junior Boy's Own JB0 5059546 (JMV/P)
9	NEW	LET'S GET DOWN	East West EW 1557 (W)	
10	6	RECYCLE UP	Various	Mixing Tidy 12072 (REC/05/GM)
11	NEW	THE STALKER	Aquasky	Moving Shadow SHAD00 121 (SRC)
12	NEW	RECYCLE EP - YELLOW	Steve Blake/Hyperlogic	Tidy Tidy 12072 (REC/05/GM)
13	NEW	XELINE TUNE	Tina Cousins	Jive/Jivezation JVC 51822P (U)
14	NEW	STYLE	Orbital	Irish FX 358 (U)
15	17	WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT	Ginuwine	Epic 6670268 (SM)
16	17	RISE OF TONIGHT	Sharp SHARP 014 (W)	
17	5	CUT CHEMIST SUITE	Ozomatli	Almo Sounds 12ALM 82 (SM/VP)
18	NEW	COMMUNITY OF THE SPIRIT	Danny Rampling	Distant DC 1226 (P)
19	NEW	YOU DON'T KNOW ME	Armand Van Helden feat. Duane Harden	Irish FX 357 (U)

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DANCE ALBUMS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No. (Distributor)
1	NEW	100% GINJUWINE	Ginuwine	Epic 1491824 (SM)
2	4	THE MISSEQUENT OF LAURYN HILL	Lauryn Hill	Columbia 48843148834 (SM)
3	4	THE RESISTANCE - 2 YEARS OF DANKENFUT AT CREAM	Various	JRQ/V2 JB0 10059431483 1005344 (SM/VP)
4	NEW	WARR ZONE	Black Moon	Virgin/EMI -YTD/MC 237 (E)
5	3	YONG - ESSENTIAL SELECTION - SPRING 1999	Various Artists	Priority PTPYL 1671 (E)
6	3	SLIM SHADY	Eminem	Irish FX 358 (U)
7	NEW	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	Whitney Houston	Interscope ISC 902972 (E - Import)
8	2	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	Various	Arista 4076221822 (U)
9	NEW	TIME IS RUNNING OUT EP	Hype & Zinc	Ministry Of Sound -MOS 6 (2) SMV/S&P)
10	NEW	TIME IS RUNNING OUT EP	Hype & Zinc	Frontline FRONT 0281 (SRC)

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TV MUSIC

Label Cat. No.

This	Last	Title	Label Cat. No.
1	1	STEPS The Video	Epic/Jive 0219175
2	2	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: Cats	PolyGram Video 47993
3	5	THE CORBS Live At The Royal Albert Hall	Werner Music Video 7507887 (3)
4	3	GEORGE MICHAEL/Ladies & Gentlemen - Best Of	SMV Epic 720832
5	4	THE CARPENTERS/Close To You - Remembering	Second Sight 7802121
6	6	ROBBIE WILLIAMS/Live In Your Living Room	Chrysalis 671463
7	7	CLIFF RICHARD/4th Anniversary Concert	Video Collection V0447
8	10	VARIOUS ARTISTS/Andrew Lloyd Webber-Celebration	PolyGram Video 57983
9	8	RONAN HARDINGMAN/Michael Flatley's Fast Of Flamas	VL 559523
10	11	BOYZONE/Live - Where We Belong	VL 558663

16



27 MARCH 1999

ALL THE UK CHARTS
DANCE

COOL CUTS CHART

as featured on Pete Tong's Essential Selection on Radio One

1	RED ALERT Basement Jaxx	XL
2	RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW Fatboy Slim	Skinet
3	FLAT BEAT M1 Otzo	F Comm
4	WHAT YOU NEED POWERHOUSE	Defected
5	HOLD ON Jose Nunez	Subliminal
6	THE FEELIN' Rhythmic Junkies	Ride
7	TAKE ME HOME! WON'T BE LONG Super Collider	Loaded
8	CARTE BLANCHE Viveschica	Deal
9	TWILIO THUNDER Breeder	Rhythm Syndicate
10	CHECK IT OUT! (EVERYBODY) B.M.R.	AM/PM
11	EVERYBODY LOOKED THE SAME Groove Armada	Pepper
12	UNVISIBLE TIT	Hojo Choons
13	EVERYTHING'S NOT YOUR STENOGRAPHER	VC
14	GLASGOW GANGSTER Funk Deeva	Regal
15	BOBBY HITCHES EP Baby Highest Experience	Ultimate Dilemma
16	PSYCHOJUMP Shut Up & Dance	SUAD
17	PHUTURE 2000 Carl Cox	Edel
18	CLAP YOUR HANDS Camilla	Y&N
19	ALA KABOO Sound 5	Gut
20	WALKIN' ON UP Unily feat. Zea	Global Harmony

Compiled by DJ Redhead and data collected from the following stores: Cap Sound/Infectious, Paul Oakenfold/Mercury, Top London, Salsoul/BMG, Vicious/Virgin, 2nd Phase/Pop (Clayco), 3 Beat/Livework, Paving The Way/Atlantic, Global Wax (Brazil), Mosaic (Columbia), Real (Mercury), Rhythm Syndicate/Cambridge

CLUB CHART TOP 40

1	TURN AROUND Phats & Small	Multi/Pl
2	CHECK IT OUT! (EVERYBODY) B.M.R. feat. Felicia Anselmi	AM/PM
3	WE ARE I.E. Lenny De Lee	Distinctive
4	PEARL RIVER Johnny Shaker feat. Serial Diva	Low Sense
5	SOMEBODY SCREAM Henry United	Logic
6	BRING MY FAMILY BACK Fallites	Cheiky
7	LOVE SUPREME JS-16	Duty Free
8	THE INVISIBLE EP Tilt	Hojo Choons
9	UNIVERSAL NATION Push	Bonzai/Inferno
10	TILL I'M READY G.T. feat. Sharon Dee Clarke	Rumour
11	BULGARIAN TRAVEL	Tidy Tax
12	READY OR NOT DJ Dado & Simon Jay	Chemistry
13	LOVE & FATE PT II Love & Fate	BoogieMan
14	GIVE A LITTLE LOVE The Invisible Man	Serious
15	HE'S ALL I WANT Angelmoon	V2
16	ROOTS (FEEL TOO HIGH) Sunshine State feat. Oz	All Around The World
17	YOU DYNAMO ELIZABETH	Beautiful Noise!
18	LA RA RA RI (CANZONE FELICE) Santos & Sabino	VJ Recordings
19	JOY KATHY Brown	Acuti
20	POPPED FOLY Boones	VC Recordings
21	ROOF IS ON FIRE Beat-Boy	Fresh
22	ALL THIS LOVE Big Room	Moneypenny's
23	LA MUSICA RUff Driverz presents Arrola	Inferno
24	LOUD N' PROUD Krumping	Intravex
25	ONE HAND CLAPPING D-Bop	Fluff
26	GET ON UP Capriccio	Defected
27	SWEETEST JOY T Vannelli Project feat. Harambee	Dreambeat
28	FASHION Phunky Data	Sekene/Futura/Edel
29	BE ALONE NO MORE Another Level	Northwestside
30	PHYSICAL Olivia Newton John	MCA
31	MOVIN' THRU YOUR SYSTEM Jark Prongo	Hojo Choons
32	DEEP INSIDE OF ME Funk Force	Ride
33	GOOD SIGN Emilia	Universal
34	TO NUMBER ONE The Scorpions	Caillion
35	LOVE ON LOVE Candi Staton	React
36	NIGHTS OVER EGYPT Incognito	Talkin Loud
37	PUSH UPSTAIRS Underworld	JD/Y2
38	MY LOVE Kelle La Roc	1st Avenue/Wildcard
39	FLAT BEAT M1 Otzo	F Comm
40	STAR HORRIBLE BOY	Wise Buddha

CLUB CHART BREAKERS

1	LET ME FEEL Stretch N Vern	Spot On/Inr
2	LET IT RAIN Real Soul feat. Carolyn Harding	Diffusion
3	VAMPIRE LOVE Lisa Dominique	Bi
4	BREAKDANCE (IS BACK) Wayne G presents Twisted	It's Fabulous
5	THANK ABBA FOR THE MUSIC The Supertrampers	Epic
6	GOURYELLA Gouryella	Tsunami
7	CLAP YOUR HANDS Camilla	VC Recordings
8	WALK MY WAY Matthew Marsden	Columbia
9	HOLD ON Rom Anthony	French Roule!
10	MY NAME IS... Eminem	Interscope

Breakers are the 10 records outside the Top 40 which have registered the most improved DJ reactions. The Club Chart Top 40 (including mixes), Urban, Pop and Cool Cuts charts are available on AMP's website at www.dancefm.com. To receive the Club, Urban and Pop charts in full by fax call Kool Reach on 011-940 800.

CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES

Phats & Small retain the top spot with Turn Around which is a little off from the hot pace of last week, but is still garnering huge popularity. It was very neatly caught this week, despite its support, with Check It Out! by B.M.R. — the first single for the newly re-settled and re-launched AM/PM (now with Island after the disarming of A&M) — making a bold bid for the top slot. It seems certain to take over at the top next week, despite the arrival of three other enormously popular new tracks in the Top 10. Leading this trio is Bring My Family Back by Fallites, which has thus far been serviced in two promos, and still has a third to add further thrust. Also making the Top 10 in a hurry — The Invisible EP by Tilt and Universal's Nelson by Push, both massive trance tunes. The were stars of Paul Oakenfold's Perfecto label, but left the label last year, and had a number 18 club hit for a few weeks ago with their remake of fellow trance star Robert Miles' Children. That single, on Deconstruction, and now in the CInS sales chart, was apparently a one-off, and they have moved on to take up residence at Hojo Choons... It should be noted that all of this week's top nine singles registered more than 500 chart points, which is an historically large number of records to reach that tally. It seems that the fact we have pared our printed chart down to a Top 40 (the full rundown is still available on dnetmusic) means that in order to gain the chart visibility they crave, companies are promoting records in larger quantities than hitherto. This also has an effect at the bottom of the chart, however, where the points required for the number 100 position are at an all-time low... With new mixes due imminently, the Shanks & Bigfoot single Sweet Like Chocolate gently descends 57/93 on its 14th week in the Top 100. For a garage tune — and a mellow one at that — to spend so long in the chart is a great rarity, especially as so few copies of Sweet Like Chocolate were mailed in the first place... On the Pop chart, B*Witched's reign is showing, and they are replaced at number one by Honey United, whose Ma Bales' version of Somebody's Dream is showing great tenacity, having previously topped the chart three weeks ago. And on the Urban chart, TLC spend a third week at number one with No Scrubs, still some distance ahead of the pack, though a second mailing of Emthems's My Name Is... has lifted that record 13-2.

POP TOP 20

1	3	5	SOMEBODY SCREAM Henry United	Logic
2	3	3	TURN AROUND Phats & Small	Multi/Pl
4	12	2	READY OR NOT DJ Dado & Simon Jay	Chemistry
5	1	4	ALAME IT ON THE WEATHERMAN B*Witched	Epic
6	5	3	PHYSICAL Olivia Newton John	NCA
7	10	6	WALK MY WAY Matthew Marsden	Columbia
8	4	6	MAMMA MIA Abba/Capra	Almighty
9	8	1	LA MUSICA RUff Driverz presents Arrola	Inferno
10	6	6	MY LOVE Kelle La Roc	1st Avenue/Wildcard
11	7	2	WE ARE I.E. Lenny De Lee	Distinctive
12	9	2	PEARL RIVER Johnny Shaker feat. Serial Diva	Low Sense
13	10	10	ROOF IS ON FIRE Beat-Boy	Fresh
14	7	3	BE ALONE NO MORE Another Level	Northwestside
15	11	11	TILL I'M READY G.T. feat. Sharon Dee Clarke	Rumour
16	12	12	STAR WALK Almighty Alistair	Almighty
17	4	9	GIVE A LITTLE LOVE The Invisible Man	Serious
18	10	3	CHECK IT OUT! (EVERYBODY) B.M.R. feat. Felicia Anselmi	AM/PM
19	16	16	BABY ONE MORE TIME Britney Spears	Jive

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AIRPLAY FACTSHEET

AT A GLANCE WEEKLY MARKET SHARES

CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES

Strong is the third single from Robbie Williams' million-selling I've Been Expecting You album, and this week becomes the second to top the airplay chart. With an audience of over 77m, it has already surpassed the 71m audience which earned Millennium its solitary week at number one in October, and is well up on the 52m audience which pushed Strong as high as number four in December.

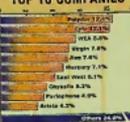
Robbie replaces Britney Spears' Baby One More Time, which had been number one for three weeks. In addition to topping the UK chart, Baby One More Time was the number one airplay hit last week in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, enjoying superiority in more territories at once than any record since MW's sister publication four started publishing Music Control's charts a year ago.

● TLC's No Scrubs is destined for a top five CIO debut this week but slips 32-33 on the airplay chart despite massive support from Atlantic 252, where it tops the most-played list with 48 spins. ● Atlantic 252 is also going up for Love Inc's dance cut Broken Bones, which shares second place on its most-played list with 44 plays last week. The 4m

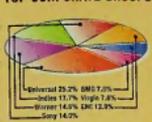
listeners it attracts is, however, more than two thirds of all the audience for the track.

● The Cranberries Promise single is getting a slow take-up rate at both UK and Irish radio. Its number 81 position here this week owes much to 23 plays from Virgin 212, which provided over 55% of its audience last week.

TOP 10 COMPANIES



TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



From 1998 to 2000, 100% of all airplay for the Top 10, and corporate groups for 94% of all airplay.

from the Hush. In Our Lifetime was premiered on the Zoe Ball show on Tuesday, and had earned enough plays by the end of the week to become the week's highest debut, entering the chart at number 26. It was the top new add for both Radio One (24 plays) and for Capital FM (26 plays).

During the early part of his career, Kavana was able to land high on the sales chart while attracting little airplay, but his recent hits have underachieved badly at retail, while ironically giving him improved airplay profile. Nav's latest single Will You Wait For Me entered the CIO chart at number 29 last week but has now failed to number 29. Meanwhile, airplay for the single is building nicely, and it advances 45-36 this week. This is primarily due to Radio Two, which showed an appetite for the young Mancunian, giving serious rotation to his last single Funky Love

just before Christmas, and played Will You Wait For Me 19 times last week, a tally beaten only by the 24 plays it gave to George Michael & Mary J Blige's A.S., and the 21 spins granted to Robbie Williams' Strong. Other artists identified more with teen and pre-teen audiences who are getting better support from Radio Two (core audience = 40-plus) than Radio One include Boyzone, B'Witched, Billie and Matthew Marsden while Steps are equally favoured by both. The latter group's Better Best Forgotten single was aired 13 times by both Radio Two and Radio One last week, enough to earn it eighth place on Radio Two but only 28th place on Radio One. Overall support for Better Best Forgotten improved significantly last week but its number 23 airplay placing is still disappointing compared to its other two sales peak.

MTV

Rank	Title	Artist
1	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears
2	AS	George Michael & Mary J Blige
3	YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE	New Radicals
4	STRONG ENOUGH	Chris
5	RUNAWAY	The Corrs
6	YOU STOLE THE SUN...	Manic Street Preachers
7	IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY	Whitney Houston
8	WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH	Boyz n the Banda
9	STRONG	Robbie Williams
10	TENDER	Bluz

Most played videos on MTV UK/Media Research Ltd w/e 19/3/99
Source: MTV UK

THE BOX

Rank	Title	Artist
1	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears
2	WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH	Boyz n the Banda
3	CHANGES 2	Fac
4	JUMP	Bus Stop
5	WE LIKE TO PARTY	Vengaboys
6	TRAGEDY	Stays
7	WITCH DOCTOR	Cartoons
8	PRETTY PUP FOR A WHITE GUY!	The Offspring
9	STRONG	Robbie Williams
10	IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY	Whitney Houston

Most played videos on The Box, w/e 14/3/99
Source: The Box

BOX BREAKERS

Rank	Title	Artist	Label
1	MY NAME IS	Eminem	Interscope
2	HONEY TO THE BEE	Billie	Innocent
3	BYE BYE BABY	To	Epic
4	THAT DON'T IMPRESS ME MUCH	Shania Twain	Mercury
5	SWAY	Who You LfD feat. KO	Logic
6	SWEET LIES	Eric Campbell	Jive/Earl
7	DR. GREENHUMD	Cypress Hill	Ruffhouse/Columbia
8	SWEAR IT AGAIN	WestLife	RCA
9	BLAME IT ON THE WEATHERMAN	B'Witched	Glow Warm/Epic
10	WHY DON'T YOU GET A JOB	The Offspring	Columbia

Highest charting videos on the Box in advance of single release w/e 14/3/99
Source: The Box

TOP OF THE POPS

Rank	Title	Artist
1	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears
2	AS	George Michael & Mary J Blige
3	YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE	New Radicals
4	STRONG ENOUGH	Chris
5	RUNAWAY	The Corrs
6	YOU STOLE THE SUN...	Manic Street Preachers
7	IT'S NOT RIGHT BUT IT'S OKAY	Whitney Houston
8	WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH	Boyz n the Banda
9	STRONG	Robbie Williams
10	TENDER	Bluz

Most played videos on Top of the Pops, w/e 19/3/99
Source: BBC

RADIO ONE PLAYLISTS

A-LIST Blame It On The Weatherman B'Witched; How Long's A Tear Take To Dry? The Beautiful Soul; Honey To The Bee Billie; Outfitted/Reynold; Going Gets Tough Enough; Dead From The Waist Down; California; My Name Is Eminem; It's Not Right But It's Okay Whitney Houston; Blame It Back '99 Boyz n the Banda; My Love Kille Le Roc; You Stole The Sun From My Heart; My Love Kille Le Roc; You Stole The Sun From My Heart; Manic Street Preachers; As George Michael & Mary J Blige; You Get What You Give New Radicals; Tom Arnold Plays & Small; Baby One More Time Britney Spears; Just Looking Strenuous; Everlast; No Scrubs TLC; Perfect Moment Underworld; Strong Robbie Williams

B-LIST Blame It On The Weatherman; I Still Believe; Pure Imagination; Mariah Carey; Promises The Cranberries; El Paso; Ricochet; You Gotta Be '99 Des're; Right Here Right Now Fatboy Slim; Fire Up Her Age; Taboo; Dharma Grit; Neil; Shiva; Ann; One Of A Lifetime; Honey To The Bee

C-LIST Blame It On The Weatherman B'Witched; How Long's A Tear Take To Dry? The Beautiful Soul; Honey To The Bee Billie; Outfitted/Reynold; Going Gets Tough Enough; Dead From The Waist Down; California; My Name Is Eminem; It's Not Right But It's Okay Whitney Houston; Blame It Back '99 Boyz n the Banda; My Love Kille Le Roc; You Stole The Sun From My Heart; My Love Kille Le Roc; You Stole The Sun From My Heart; Manic Street Preachers; As George Michael & Mary J Blige; You Get What You Give New Radicals; Tom Arnold Plays & Small; Baby One More Time Britney Spears; Just Looking Strenuous; Everlast; No Scrubs TLC; Perfect Moment Underworld; Strong Robbie Williams

MTV UK PLAYLISTS

A-LIST Strong/Let Me Entertain You/Angeles Robbie Williams; Baby One More Time Britney Spears; As George Michael & Mary J Blige; Runaway The Corrs; You Stole The Sun From My Heart Manic Street Preachers; Strong Enough/Chris; You Get What You Give New Radicals; It's Not Right But It's Okay Whitney Houston

B-LIST Better Best Forgotten Steps; Just Looking Strenuous; When The Going Gets Tough Boyz n the Banda; Writing To Reach You Travis; Lullaby Shann Marino; Tender; Soul; Really Nothing Matters Madonna; Why I Could Fly Robbie; Honey To The Bee Billie; Blame It On The Weatherman B'Witched; Baby One Back '99 Boyz n the Banda; Why Don't You Get A Job The Offspring; Teen; Perfect Moment Mariah Carey; At My Most Beautiful R.E.M.

C-LIST Push Underworld; Dr Greenhumd Cypress Hill; Blame Runaway; My Name Is Eminem; I've Got Something To Say Beirut; Promises The Cranberries; Instant Street Devils; Popped Full Des're; Tom Arnold Plays & Small; Baby One More Time Britney Spears; Sweet Lies Agnes; Blackstreet feat. Janet Jackson; Dead From The Waist Down; California; Radio World Mark2box 20; Raw My Love Kille Le Roc; Right Here Right Now Fatboy Slim; Use Very Stylish Pils Dims From Pans

THE PEPSI CHART

Performance: Honey To The Bee Billie; My Love Kille Le Roc

Videos: You Get What You Give New Radicals; Push Underworld; What's It Gonna Be Busta Rhymes feat. Janet; Music To Watch Girls By Andy Williams

Interviews: None

Draft line-up 25/3/99

RADIO TWO PLAYLISTS

A-LIST When The Going Gets Tough Boyz n the Banda; As George Michael & Mary J Blige; Every Time It Rains Ace Of Base; Blame It On The Weatherman B'Witched; What A Wonderful World Alicia Keys; Strong Robbie Williams; At My Heart Beautiful R.E.M.; Better Best Forgotten Steps; Which I Could Fly Robbie; My Love Kille Le Roc; Perfect Moment Underworld; McCutcheon

B-LIST Dead End Of The Street E Cassidy; Two Hearted Love Robert Palmer; Rust Echo & The Bunnymen; Shakespeare in Love Layla Kallil; Sweet Lies Eric Campbell; Faith On The Heart R Sward; The Train Is Coming; I.B.O.; Jump Into It; Walk About Search Orchestra; Don't Talk To Strangers Chiva Kung

C-LIST Music To Watch Girls By Andy Williams; How Long's A Tear Take To Dry? The Beautiful Soul; The Way It Goes Shakin' Quo; Honey To The Bee Billie; In Nothing Good My Love; Medicine & My Palia London; David Ball; Love Of A Lifetime Honey; Badassia; Alisha's Acid; Let Me Go Faith Hill; Thank ABBA For The Music; Steps/The Cousins/Cheapsaques/B'Witched/Blitz; Baby One More Time Britney Spears; Sweet Lies Agnes; Why Don't You Wait For Me Strong; Strong Enough Chris; Tric II (album); Enigma/Harris/Landau/Ronstadt/Other; Perim; Incomplete; Back On Top; (album) Nav Morrison

MTV UK PLAYLISTS

A-LIST Push Underworld; Dr Greenhumd Cypress Hill; Blame Runaway; My Name Is Eminem; I've Got Something To Say Beirut; Promises The Cranberries; Instant Street Devils; Popped Full Des're; Tom Arnold Plays & Small; Baby One More Time Britney Spears; Sweet Lies Agnes; Blackstreet feat. Janet Jackson; Dead From The Waist Down; California; Radio World Mark2box 20; Raw My Love Kille Le Roc; Right Here Right Now Fatboy Slim; Use Very Stylish Pils Dims From Pans

27 MARCH 1999

The Top 100 Airplay Chart is based on the following criteria:

music control

New
Play
in
UK
Last
Week
in
UK
No. of
Weeks
in
UK

RADIO 1 10.30pm
A-Z of plays
UK
LIP

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
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SINGLE of the week

MARTINE MCCUTCHEON: Perfect Moment (Innocent SINC07). The debut single from one of the UK's most popular actresses (and, don't forget, a former member of Polydor's Milan) is surprising many doubters — she really can sing. This lush ballad is the result of old-fashioned A&R, with Innocent's Cheryl Robson here teaming



McCutcheon with producer Tony Moran (Janet Jackson, Gloria Estefan) and writers Wendy Page and Jim Marr (Billie). The song is leaping up the airplay chart (heavy play on Radio Two and a B-listing at Radio One) and McCutcheon is the subject of a 50-minute TV documentary on ITV on the day of release which will ensure a high chart placing. Most importantly, it looks likely to hang around in the charts as it wins over the doubters.

SINGLE reviews



RECOMMEND **STONY SLEEP: Kharotum (Big Cat ABB5004753).** The third single from this young band's debut album A Slack Romance (released on March 15) is a

powerhouse of rampaging guitars and chugging riffs. Bound to go down well with lovers of harder rock, it also has strong melodic tendencies.

MATTHEW MARSDEN: Walk My Way (Columbia XPCD 1105). Marsden's third single, taken from his debut album Say Who (released on April 19), is catchy with a summery feel, but the singer seems to have lost impetus somewhat since his Top 20 debut with The Heart's Luvie Desire.

RECOMMEND **ELECTRONIC: Vivid (Parlophone CDRS5514).** Nagging, harmonica-led pop from Johnny Marr and Bernard Sumner, who return next month with their third album, Twisted Tenderness (see this week's A&R section). Vivid showcases a rawer sound

which stands proudly apart from the two stars' imposing back catalogue. The track has an As Featured listing on Radio One and deserves a high chart placing.

RUTH: Where Is The One (ARO DSART7). The first major-backed piece of hard-edged guitar pop from this Southampton-based four-piece, this calls to mind recent good-time bands such as Doggy and Supergrass, and increasing Xfm and daytime Radio One exposure could help it break through.

RECOMMEND **ARCHIVE: Take My Head (Independiente ISOM241).** After delivering the acclaimed 1996 album *Londonium* only to be dropped by Island shortly afterwards, Archive are back courtesy of Independiente. This limited-edition 12-inch juxtaposes new singer Suzanne's haunting vocals with a wall of scifi sounds incorporating vintage synths.

SOUND 5: Ala Kaboo (Gut CDD0UT23). With a line-up which includes club DJ Kelvin Andrews and Danny Spencer (ex-Candy Flip), the last thing expected is the eclectic blend of styles on offer here. They adopt the same mix'n'match approach as labelmates Space, and have an overriding sense of pop that mostly hits the spot.

GLAMMA KID FEAT. SHOLA AMA: Taboo (Future Flex/WEA WE2A03CD). Sade's hit single from 1995 gets a thorough reworking by the winner of best reggae act at last year's Mobo Awards, bringing to mind the formula used for his Fashion '98 single, which peaked at number 49. Taboo is currently on Radio One's B-list and should do better than its predecessor.

RECOMMEND **BUSTA RHYMES FEAT. JANET: What's It Gonna Be (Elektra/East West EST32 CD1).** Busta comes correct once again against a backdrop of typically synopacted beats and a deceptively simple chord progression. Janet's chorus provides the hook which is ensuring this is a huge hit in the better R&B clubs. Although a little slow for mainstream dancefloors, the lavish video should ensure this has a decent crack in the charts, despite Janet's current collaboration with Blackstreet.



GENE: Fil Her Up (Polydor COSCDD15). The second single from the album *Revelations* finds Gene in a sprightly mood and is probably their poppiest single yet.

Coming off the back of a largely sold-out UK tour, it sadly is unlikely to be the song to rescue them from a life of mid-chart action. But their last single, As Good As It Gets, surprised many by debuting at number 23 and this track has a Radio One B-listing.

ALISHA'S ATTIC: Barbarella (Mercury AATCDY669892). Darkness appears to have descended on the once brighter carrier of Alisha's Attic whose second album left the Top 75 after just three weeks. Its third single has the sisters' usual highly-melodic sound, uniting them with debut album producer Dave Stewart, but does not stand out enough to return them to past heights.

DESERT EAGLE DISCS: All Night Love (Bollerhouse/Arista tbc). The London duo release the second single from their album *The Eagle Has Landed*. Mixing crisp hip

beats from Stryx-Up with smooth vocals by Shaw, it deserves airplay.

LENNIE DE ICE: We Are I.E. (Distinctive DISNC050). John S's remix of the 1991 rare anthem mixes breakfast flavours and vocal repeats with four-to-the-floor house beats. Bulletproof add a bouncy bassline, while Spivey provide a moody speed garage version. Currently in the Top 10 of the *MV Club* Chart, it could well cross over.

RECOMMEND **WILCO: Can't Stand It (WEA W475).** The opening track from Wilco's mighty *Summerteeth* album is among the record's more immediately accessible songs, and is probably their best bid for a hit. With strong reviews for Wilco's Top 40 album, an Xfm A-listing and a spell as Simon Mayo's single of the week, this may well increase word-of-mouth sales.

KATHY BROWN: Joy (Azuli tbc). Produced by David Morales, this garage track is already finding favour with DJs such as Radio One's Danny Rampling. Recently picked up from New York label Definitly, it now features a truly tuff tuff slick mix from the Sharp Boys. Germany's Boris Dlugosch and Michael Lange also contribute mixes.

LYNDEN DAVID HALL: Medicine 4 My Pain (Cooltemp CDD00L 342). Following Hall's Brit Awards nomination, a Mobo award for best newcomer and a successful UK tour, Cooltemp re-releases this soulful mid-tempo track. If anything it suffers from being a tad too sophisticated for the pop market and is not making waves at radio.

RECOMMEND **FAITH HILL: Let Me Let Go (Warner W473CD).** Grammy nominee Hill's follow-up to the Top 20 hit *This Kiss* features on the soundtrack to the film *Message in a Bottle*. Lifted from her album *Love Will Always Win* (released on April 19), it has been C-listed by Radio Two.

UB40: The Train Is Coming (DEP International DEP025). The latest offering from the reggae veterans is a cover of Jamaican star Ken Boothe's Seventies classic. It is currently on Radio Two's B-list.

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ALBUM reviews



NOVEMBER: CARTOONS: Toonage (EMI 7243 496922 2). Like fellow Danes Aqua, Cartoons are huge in their homeland and beyond — they have already sold

200,000 singles and albums across Europe. Tipped last year by *MTV*, these guys make critical assessment a nonsense; children under the age of 12 will love them and not everyone will get the joke, but so what? The orders on the first single *Witch Doctor* (released on March 22) already top 170,000 and are rising. Should be massive. **ZITA SWOON: I Paint Pictures On A Wedding Dress (WEA 3984 25087 2).** Hailing from Antwerp in Belgium, this band evolved from local hit-makers *deUS*. With jazz, the result is an eclectic debut set akin to a gentler Captain Beefheart.

VARIOUS: Jazz In The House 2 (Slip 'N' Slide SLIPCD82). This quality three-CD boxed set includes jazzy house from acts such as Global Communications, Blaze and Lil' Louis & The World, plus plenty of strong tracks by lesser-known acts. Its summery feel should help it easily match the sales of the first volume in the series.

CONCRETE: RADIATOR: Radiator (Chrysalis DJ499 2462). Fresh from a UK tour which has established them as one of the best young live bands, Radiator's brand of rock pays tribute to everything from Nirvana to the Prodigy to U2. Intense tracks such as *Black Shine* and *Generator* are joined by the toky ballad *Untitled Love Song*. It's an excellent debut which deserves to find the same wide market as acts such as *Garbage*. **SHELBY STARNER: From In The Shadows (Warner Bros 247017AB).** This 15-year-old US singer-songwriter bears obvious comparisons to *Eddie Brickett* and other female singers of that ilk. A surprisingly

mature songwriting style emerges from her acoustic style guitar and piano. However, one can't help feel the angst-filled lyrics are too mature for one so young. **CONCRETE: ORBITAL: The Middle Of Nowhere (ffr 5560762).** The dance act's latest set ditches the cinematic feel of their last two Top Five albums — *Snivilization* and *In Sides* — to herald a return to their more dancefloor-friendly roots. Although it lacks the unified feel of their previous releases, it has enough of a techno edge to hold the listener's attention, and deserves to follow acts such as *Underworld* into the Top 10. Lead single *Style* has fared well, debuting at number 13 in last week's *CB* chart.



NEW RADICALS: Maybe You've Been Brainwashed Too (MCA MCD11858). This US band, whose sound is very much *The Waterboys* meets *Daryl Hall*, defies

the usual rock clichés with strong songs, thought-provoking lyrics and interesting melodies. The single *You Get What You Give* has been A-listed on *Capital*, *Virgin*, *GLR* and *Radio One* and has shipped 135,000 in the UK, likely to make it a Top Five hit.

DJ RAP: Learning Curve (Higher Ground HIGHCD7). After breaking into the drum & bass scene as a DJ, DJ Rap finally releases her debut album on *Higher Ground*. Its mix of ambient and dance sounds with vocals is successful enough, but it's one that builds foundations rather than makes waves.

VARIOUS: Source Rocks (Virgin CDVDR90). Paris label *Source*, which introduced the world to *Air* and *Daft Punk*, through its *SourceLab* compilations, unearths yet more fresh French talent. Focusing on laidback funky tracks rather than house, Seventies sounds are blended with Nineties production to create a retro yet futuristic mix. Standout acts include the uplifting *Phoenix*, the head-nodding funk of *Scenario Rock* and the electro prog-rock of *Mellow*.

ALBUM of the week

CHAKA KHAN: Come To My House (NPG/BMG 74321621332). By the time most artists reach their 20th album they have long lost the urge to experiment — but not Chaka Khan. For



her latest set she eschews some of the mainstream R&B writers and producers who have stifled her Nineties work to make something altogether more interesting. While mainly self-written and produced, her musical collaborators include *The Artist (Prince)* and *Larry Graham*. Although not a mainstream record, Chaka fans will be happy and there is enough going on to make it well worth other people checking out. Such is her reputation that promotion already includes TV appearances on *OLT* and the *O-Zone*, plus radio slots on stations such as *GLR*, *Radio Two* and *Capital*.

ABBA: The Singles Collection (Polydor 563286-2). To celebrate the 25th anniversary of *ABBA's* Eurovision Song Contest victory with *Waterloo*, Polydor is releasing a boxed set of CD singles featuring all the act's 28 singles from 1972 to 1982. A limited edition of 20,000, it comes at a time when *ABBA*-mania is hitting the UK, with the *Brits* Trust supporting single and the *Mamma Mia* show. **ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN: What Are You Going To Do With Your Life (London 5560802).** No longer at the cutting edge, the *Bunnymen's* laidback attitude wins through with a warm sensibility on this album bursting with reflective ballads. However, it cannot expect to repeat the success of their last album *Evergreen*, which included the brilliant *Nothing Lasts Forever* and helped anchor the band's career. **BRIAN: Bring Trouble (Santitas SETCD060).** This is vaguely pastoral adult



pop from *Brian*, the brainchild of songwriter *Ken Sweeney*. The effect is of a more forward-looking *Lightning Seeds*, with *Sweeney's* Ian *Broudie*-esque vocals complemented by tasteful programming. **PAUL WESTERBERG: Sulcaine Gratification (EMI:Chrysalis 723449914520).** The former *Replacements* frontman returns with his third solo album, his first for *EMI/Chrysalis*. With its less-is-more *Don Was* production, it is less overtly commercial and certainly more heartfelt than its predecessors and is, ironically, all the more likely to reach a wider market.

Hear new releases

Audio clips from the releases marked with this icon can be heard on dotmusic at: www.dotmusic.com/previews

This week's reviewers: Dugald Baird, James Brown, Michael Byrne, Hamish Champ, Catherine Eade, Olaf Furniss, Stephen Jones, Sophie Moss, Jo Maddox, Nick Robison, Ajax Scott, Simon Ward, Paul Williams and Adam Woods.

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RETAIL FOCUS: SEEDEE JONS

by Karen Faux

Since relocating to a bigger and more central position in St Helier on the Channel Island of Jersey, Seedee Jons reports an upturn in business of around 65% on last year. "Although a greater depth of back catalogue and keener pricing have helped to create sales, I have to give most of the credit to my staff, who have been with me since I first opened," says owner John Healy. "Our customers get on brilliantly with them and rely on their expert knowledge."

With back catalogue playing an important part in the store's profitability, Healy keeps the offer looking fresh by rotating stock under different banners and bringing new promotions to the fore. Currently the shop is right behind Blue Note's 60th Anniversary campaign.

"We've flagged up the campaign with posters in our window and have it prominently featured in our jazz section," says Healy. "There are quite a few albums that haven't been available for a long while and we're doing very well with the old Blue Note comp-



Seedee Jons: expert knowledge helps customers

tations. Artists such as Dexter Gordon, Chet Baker and Charlie Parker are finding plenty of takers and it is a happy coincidence that it coincides with the Jersey Jazz Festival."

"On listening posts, Healy's priority is to give exposure to up-and-coming product with records swiftly removed once they have become familiar. "We generally change the

selection twice a week so that customers always have the chance to listen to something they haven't heard before," he says.

Healy says that after months of putting pressure on EMI, the company has just agreed to supply Seedee Jons with one of its Soundbite posts. "We are extremely grateful for this," he adds. "It means we can take all the

EMI product off our own post and give it a more diverse mix."

Seedee Jons has been targeting local nightclubs as an exclusive ticket agent for events. Manager Malcolm White says, "There have recently been some big all-nighters that have brought in top DJs, and next week we've got Judge Jules and Jeremy Healy coming in. There is also a big all-nighter planned for Elizabeth Castle. Selling tickets is a very effective way of bringing more people into the shop."

Seedee Jons is looking forward to the future when duty-free ceases to exist in Europe. "Luckily this does not apply to Jersey because we did not opt to join the EC and we enjoy tax free status," says Healy. "While visitors do not specifically come here for tax-free shopping, once they are here they tend to spend a lot more."

IN-STORE NEXT WEEK (from 29/3/99)

Windows - Reef, Universal campaign with CDs at £7.99 each or three for £21; **In-store** - Chaka Khan, Alan Freeman's Classical Bits, Mozart Arias; **TV ads** - Especially For You; **Radio ads** - Beverly Knight; **Press ads** - Terence Blanchard, Roxette, Matthew Marsden, Pretty Things, Radiator, Cassandra Wilson, Rick Wakeman, John Tavener, Rachmaninov

ASDA **Single** - Cartoons; **Album** - Elton John; **In-store** - New Hits '99, Massive Dance '99 2, Skunk Anansie, Vengaboys, Live And Kicking, Adam And The Ants, Oasis, Chillout Room, Barbara Windsor, Blackstreet, Mr. Oizo, Des'ree, Billie, TLC, New Radicals, Sash!, System F, Christian Fry, Brian Setzer Orchestra

Boots **In-store** - Easter campaign featuring Hits '99, Steps, B*Witched, Charlotte Church, Now 42; three for the price of two on selected rock, pop and classical CDs, Friends Series 5 on video; three Only Fools And Horses videos for the price of two, Warner Century Video promotion, Magic Sword, Lock Stock & Two Smoking Barrels

Album of the month - Mogwai; **Display board** - Aphex Twin, Add N To It, Wu-Tang Clan, Frank Black, Stereolab, Cornelius, Roots Manuva, Mr Oizo

HMV **Windows and In-store** - Another Level, Mariah Carey, Beverly Knight, Reef,

Phats & Small, Thank Abba 4 The Music, Ace Of Base, Catalina, Eminem, Nine Yards, Candii Stanton, Incognito, Gatecrasher Red, Armand Van Helden; **Press ads** - Reef

MENZIES **Album** - Best of Dance '99; **Single** - Meat Loaf; **Listening posts** - Elton John, Andy Williams

MVC **Album** - Now! 42; **Windows** - Elton John, Now! 42; **In-store** - Van Morrison, Des'ree, Abba, Pater, Ultimate Soundtracks Collection; **Listening posts** - Cassandra Wilson, Deas, Mogwai, Reich, David Sylvian, Abba Pater, Mirror Of Perfection, Marc Almond

NOW **Singles** - Meat Loaf, Phats & Small, Thank Abba 4 The Music, Eminem; **Albums** - Roxette, Alan Freeman's Classical Bits, Female Touch 2, Now 42, Gatecrasher Red, Best Dance '99; **Videos** - Barney, Best Of Jerry Springer, X-Files The Movie, Robot Wars; **In-store** - Barney

ourprice **Windows** - Reef; **In-store** - Another Level, Armand Van Helden, Beverly Knight, Bon Jovi, Bus Stop, Catalina, Cypress Hill, David Sylvian, Kela Le Roc, Des'ree, Mariah Carey, Meat Loaf; **TV ads** - Bus Stop, Cypress Hill, Mariah Carey; **Press ads** - Reef, Ultrasound

pinnacle network **Selects listening posts** - Everlast, Sound Price sampler, Tom Waits, The Corrupter;

Mojo recommended retailers - Eddie Hinton, Curtiss Maldonado, Lord Of 1,000 Dances, Invictus Chartbusters, My Midnight, Blues For A Honey

TOWER **Singles** - Meat Loaf, Mariah Carey, Reef, Beverly Knight; **Windows** - X-Files The Movie, Meat Loaf; **Full to mid-price spring sale**, Skunk Anansie, Bob Marley, Igitte, Bis, Blur; **In-store** - The Simpsons, X-Files The Movie, Warner Home Video sale

MEGASTORES **Singles** - Cartoons, Des'ree, Feeder, Mr Oizo, Ellie Campbell, Radiator, Sash!, TLC, Liz Horne; **Albums** - Cassandra Wilson, Skunk Anansie, Massive Dance '99, Wu-Tang Clan, Baby Doc, Steve Ray Vaughan, Urban Species, Cassandra Wilson; **Windows** - Guinewine, Elton John, Skunk Anansie, Charlotte Church; **In-store** - Blur, Paul Oakenfold, Planet U, Chillout Room, Shawn Mullins; **Press ads** - Paul Oakenfold, Chant U, Chillout Room, Dance Nation 6, Deas, Mr Oizo, TLC, Billie, New Radicals

WHS Smith **Album** - Barbara Windsor; **Single** - Meat Loaf; **Listening posts** - Elton John, Andy Williams

WOOLWORTHS **In-store** - Blur, Kela Le Roc, B*Witched, Dance Nation 5, Virgin Best Ever albums at £10.99 each or two for £20, full-price CDs at £9.99, mid-price CDs at £7.99 or four for the price of three



ON THE SHELF

IAN DE WHYTELL,
owner, Crash, Leeds

"Our basement department has particularly busy this week with 12-inch import singles from Mr Oizo, Eminem and Jason Jax. A lot of the credit for the stores' healthy dance sales goes to the three DJs I have working here. They ensure that we are always ahead of the game, especially when it comes to hip hop, R&B, drum & bass and house. We have a very loyal customer base for dance and they come to us from all over the north of England.

It has taken a while for our ground floor to spring back into action, but recent album releases from Blur, Stereophonics and Underworld have all done incredibly well. We have also had very good sales on Beth Orton and Gene, but we were rather disappointed by Kula Shaker. Our big album releases are currently profiled in a huge display window we have rented from the Odeon on the opposite side of the road. On the singles front we are motoring

nically with The Creatures, Echo & The Bunnymen, Manic Street Preachers, Kela Le Roc, Robbie Williams and Andy Williams. Next week we are expecting big sales with the UK release of Mr Oizo's Flat Beat.

We are also getting a lot of enquiries about an exclusive Backyard Babies seven-inch which will be selling when the band do an in-store signing at the end of this month. In the past couple of months we've had Freddy Fresh and Scratch Pervets performing in the basement and last week Witness came in and did an acoustic set. We are stepping up the number of our events as they make the store a more exciting place to visit.

We have just launched our website - www.crashrecords.co.uk - to run alongside our existing mail-order operation. We are now going to embark on a campaign to advertise this service and possibly look for some linkup business with smaller labels."



ON THE ROAD

MARC FAYD'HERBE,
Northern senior rep,
Universal Music

"We've just had a reorganisation which everyone on the sales team is very positive about. I'm in charge of eight reps who now have much smaller areas to cover but a lot more things to handle. From the stores' point of view things are much easier because around 20% of their turnover is being channelled through one contact. It is a big workload for each rep but because they have to handle car stock, POS, pre-sales, campaigns and special showcases. However, because the areas are small they can spend a lot more time with individual retailers.

I spend two-and-a-half days on the road, one day out with one of my reps and the other in the office. The new set-up has rejuvenated us all because whereas we used to spend most of our time driving around, now we are in-store communicators.

We are all fired up by prospects for next week's Eminem single My Name is, and the

New Radicals' You Get What You Give is also going to be big. I am currently working on pre-sales for singles from Kela Le Roc and The Beautiful South, is keeping us looking forward to the new Bryan Adams single which has a great mix.

There is also an album lined up from the New Radicals which retailers report is getting a good reaction to their promotional plays. Meanwhile, the new single and album from Texas are eagerly anticipated.

Our Universal Display Initiative, where we supply special rackings geared to stalwart sellers such as Boyzone, Elton John and The Beautiful South, is keeping us constantly busy. We try to keep a lot of up-front product on listening posts and currently they are carrying New Radicals, Eminem, Little Mothers and samplers from Echo & The Bunnymen and the Brian Setzer Orchestra."

"But I'm Innocent." That was the claim anyway of Albert Square's very own Grant Mitchell after his now-lets trouble and strife's fall down the apple and pears last year. Hold up there, Mitchell, we'll tell you who is really innocent, and they're captured in this very photo. For starters, there is Innocent's brand new star **MARTINE MCCUTCHEON** who thrilled her man, **Mick Hucknall** and other assorted celebs the other week at a showcase at London's Cafe de Paris. Joining in the line-up are these other Innocents, from left to right, Virgin UK president **PAUL CONROY**, Innocent's A&R chief **CHERYL ROBSON**, EMI worldwide records boss **KEN BERRY** and Innocent managing director **HUGH GOLDSMITH**. Sorted.



Remember where you heard it: **Dave Munns'** leaving bash at the Groucho's Soho Rooms drew a high-profile PolyGram crowd with everyone from **Alain Levy**, **Michael Kuhn** and **Roger Ames** downwards, not to mention the likes of **Brian McLaughlin** and **Jeremy Marsh** in attendance. At times it was hard to work out whether some of those present were **celebrating their departure** from the company formerly known as PolyGram or the fact that they **still have jobs** there. Photo moment of the evening was **Bryan Adams** giving **Levy** a couple of **smackers** as the Frenchman made his entrance. The media haunt is set to be busy in the next week with at least one other Seagram/Universal departee planning to book its rooms for a goodbye party. For all those who couldn't make it, Munnsie can now be contacted on: 01923 829 809...All the signs are that the **label** **Dooley** first mentioned weeks ago involving a

former publisher and a major not a million miles away from **Oxford Street** is close to consummation...Thinking of label deals, **Rob Dickens** suggests the name for his new venture was fated. It turns out **Instant Karma** was one of the names on his shortlist but the clincher was when **Chris Evans** played the John Lennon song of the same name on his show just when he was making up his mind...The new programme director at **The Box** doesn't seem like a bad egg. And **modest** to boot. **Francis Currie** started his radio career off on the other side of the mic as a **presenter** on **Merica**. But what persuaded him to give it all up for **life as a suit**? "You know, I wasn't very good," deadpans Currie, displaying a healthy ego. "You have to be spontaneous to be a really good presenter and I was just too, umm, considered." ...At the annual gathering of the live music industry's great and good, the **ILMC**, conference organiser **Kim McCarthy** had this thought for delegates:

"Outside of the music industry only two other industries refer to their customers as 'punters', and that's **gambling and prostitution**..."

Expect some movement down at **Columbia** any day now...You shouldn't really speak ill of the dead, but **Paul Conroy** couldn't help but get this conversation in between **Barbara Windsor** and **Virgin's** top new turn **Martine McCutcheon** when he addressed **EMI's** investors conference last Friday. As he recalled, **Babs** recently turned to her ex-EastEnders colleague **Martine**, only to tell her, "The last time I saw you, we were **scattering your ashes**"...Dooley was anticipating a **very tense** time yesterday (Sunday) in one Irish family as **Boyzone** and **B*Witched** fought a close battle for the number one spot... He also hears that **Virgin Megastores** will be continuing its store expansion post-Millennium with the opening of an emporium in **Milton Keynes**...The last time **V2s** flew over the capital **Londoners quaked in terror**. Last week it was the turn of an **upstart** label to feel the power of **V2's** rocket. **Branson's** label exploded when the cheekily-named **V3** rather high-handedly announced itself in **Billboard** in February, promptly launching a writ against the upstart. A High Court judge agreed with **Jeremy Pearce** and pals on Friday and ordered a **meltdown**. The newcomer's got a couple of weeks to change its name or face the opening of a new front. "It's a victory for common sense," pronounced a jubilant **Pearce**...

He inspired a whole generation of artists but - as this picture



clearly shows - we can finally reveal who inspired the **Dave, Mr DAVID BOWIE**, himself. No, we're not talking about **Anthony Newley**, but **none other than the indie retail king of kings ANDY GRAY**, who was sporting this very look when he launched his business empire with a record stall on **Falkstone Pier** 30 years ago this month. But rather than the man who sold the world, he turned into the man who sold the records, opening his first shop in **Cambridge** in 1975 and this year will reach another milestone with the **chain's 40th** store.

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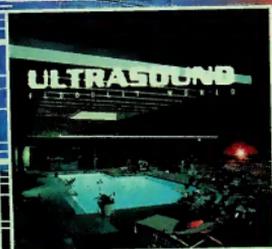


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