

POINTS WEST — As you read this, **Alice Cooper** is in the studios with **Vincent Furnier**, splitting his attention between two albums at the **Record Plant** in New York. The opuses include (he said it) a "sequel" to (how many times will we?) "Welcome To My Nightmare" along with a brand new can of worms . . . **Spinners'** ball on the twenty. Now keep an eye open for a pitch-out to **The Miracles**. They've been hustling since 1960 with "Shop Around." (Actually 1959 — you guess the title and you can take me to lunch.) . . . **Ahmet Ertegun** is a fine host and the **Spinners** are equally fine reasons to celebrate and everybody was knocked out by the whole affair and **Alice Cooper** had to duck out early to make a private dinner party at **David Bowie's** house and the food was superb. But the company was even greater as those who stayed later included **Redd Foxx, Dave Mason, Aretha Franklin, Lamont Dozier, G.C. Cameron** and **Cornell Wilde** . . . Alice, by the way, has been selected grand marshal of New Orleans' Mardi Gras later this month . . . **Playboy Records** is springing for two white Volkswagen Rabbits March 5 to the distributor/sales rep achieving the highest percentage over the assigned program target. **Eli Bird**, national sales director, is coordinating this incentive booster which has a tangle of ground rules zany enough to qualify for a TV game show. Runners-up will choose from catalog prizes . . . **TONY TIES ANOTHER ONE ON** — What does **Tony Orlando** have in common with **Paul Newman, Don Kirshner** and **Johnny Miller**? No, Fellini has nothing to do with this unless he's here to film the results of the "Perfect Valentine" contest purportedly held by the Hollywood branch of the "National Secretaries Association." According to **Doris Merle**, president of your locals, Mr. Orlando's "charm, warmth and human qualities" separate him just enough from the others so that he could be free to (still Doris) "tie a yellow ribbon around . . . any secretary's . . . typewriter." Well, those other guys are probably into leather, anyway . . . But we didn't know secretaries had *publicists* . . . According to manager **Aaron Russo** the **Transfer** is back in **Manhattan** with a second album on the rise. As soon as it finishes three weeks of recording, the bisexual quartet will shuffle off to



Westchester to start a string of dates which will include the NARM convention and nearly two months return work in Europe . . . **TODAY A TEE SHIRT, TOMORROW THE WARDROBE** — No less than three dress manufacturers are supposed to be dealing with **Diana Ross** over rights to her name on a fashion line . . . **Mercury** has recently dropped its option to record a second album by **Baby**, a "damned confident" band from Amarillo, managed by a New Yorker — **Ira Blacker (Kraftwerk)** — and recently gigged at Los Angeles' Starwood. **BABY BOAST**: to have a fandom in excess of 40,000 spread out over twenty states. **Baby's Challenge**: Can pinpoint demographics sustain an act, regionally, until it can be broken large-scale? . . . **Look! Up In The Sky!** — **George Carlin** is straddling a wide range of television viewers these next two weeks, giving still another meaning to "exposure." Carlin eases onto the tube through NBC's *Midnight Special* (13), then works in front of some diverse backdrops including the *Tonight Show* (16), the *Perry Como Special* (22) and finally *Dick Clark's American Bandstand* (28) . . . **Bobby Russell**, who wrote "Honey" and "Little Green Apples" is resting at home after a serious illness which had him confined to the UCLA intensive care unit for two weeks . . . **Doug Kershaw** has the cleanest white slate in town and a whole lot going. He's in L.A. recording for **Warners** at the moment. That label is reportedly repackaging a six-album Kershaw re-release which should be titled "The Cream Of Creole." Doug and manager **Michael Barnett** are also synchronizing timepieces with **William Morris** for an upcoming major tour. In anticipation, we hear the agency has invested in a fiddle bow company . . . **KARMA DEPARTMENT** — Can the airlines be trying to say something to **Keith Moon**? The well-known soccer-style drummer of the **Who**, noted lately for punting univac machines in passenger terminals, is the victim now of a missing trunk. According to TWA, the Mooncase full of gold and platinum albums had arrived in London but failed to make the transfer to Los Angeles. Our guess is the British taxman took it. Where's **Karl Malden** when you really need him? . . . **FIFTH FLOOR WITH A BULLET, PLEASE** — **Jack Devaney** has tapped one of those massive virgin grounds previously only slightly molested by Muzak. His firm, **Elevator Promotion, Inc.**, is capitalizing on the fact that many locations employing background music, such as buildings, professional offices and shopping malls, are now programming their own music. So Devaney has lined up several firms specializing in MOR music in order to expose it in a way that would be impossible on top 40 radio . . . All right, you've got a twelve-inch disk. Now what are you going to do with it? Although we can't readily see any ulterior motive, we're still confused over the introduction of the "special" 12-inch pressings being serviced to the discos. The concept has been flying through the air for weeks now but nobody seems to have a plausible explanation as to why so much extra is needed to help spin the crowd into a frenzy. **Fania Records**, anyway, is the latest company to issue this particular model record "Salsa" by **Louie Ramirez**. Fania claims it (the vehicle) to be a "recent industry development, growing out of the immediate needs of the disco deejays." Fania goes on to say that although the larger copy still only carries one cut, it offers "superior sound reproduction qualities over the conventional 45 RPM mode and is preferred when a disk is released solely as a single cut with no album available as an alternative for disco turntables." Well, another fellow (a disco jock himself) has his own opinion of the LP-sized single. He says the running gag in the clubs is that "you get lots of little ones but you hardly ever get a big one." . . . **CHAIN GANG MEDLEY** — **Helen Reddy** has been locked up for more *Midnight Special* hosting and will do time on the road beginning late next month on her 1976 concert tour . . . **Minnie Riperton** does ten days in Las Vegas at the Riviera Hotel for the audacity of having a five-octave range . . . **Spanky And Our Gang** are alive and well at the Whiskey River in Texas, playing with **Willie Nelson**.

stephen fuchs

EAST COASTINGS — **STONE ALONE**: **Bill Wyman**, bassist with the **Rolling Stones** and in New York to promote his own solo LP, estimated that during the last 15 months he had spent some seven weeks at his home in the South of France. "To me that's insane," he said. "In the position I'm in, I should be there at least four or five months a year." It doesn't look as if it's going to get any better — the **Stones** have a two or three month European tour this year (eastern Europe if the visa situation gets sorted out) a few "select gigs" in the U.S. in the late summer and then a Far East tour in December. Plus the possibility of Wyman doing another solo album if "Stone Alone" takes off. The new album is considered by Wyman to be much more commercial than the first one. That, says Wyman, was "a nice fun album, a package of nice things." Trouble started when requests for a single to be pulled, tightening up of airplay time, etc. Wyman hadn't thought of that. "I just went out and made a record." Wyman is very busy touting his drummer, **Dallas Taylor**, as "the only drummer in tune with where I'm coming from apart from **Charlie (Watts)**. And I've been with Charlie for 13 years." (Taylor is now, by the way, fit and well.) Thirteen years on the road with the **Stones** is a long time, particularly when compared with the usual short flashy life of the average rock band. Thoughts of the future from Wyman now it can safely be said to trust people over 30? "You stay in the business," he said. "I think I'd like to end up producing. That's the most creative part, apart from being a musician." Retire? "I couldn't. I'm not a rich man by any means. A couple of houses, that's all."

Those who have suffered long and mightily received the best news last week. From February 14, CBS Records, N.Y., has a direct dialing system.

The original **Coasters** will reunite Feb. 29 as part of a tribute evening to **Jerry Lieber** and **Mike Stoller** celebrating 25 years of collaboration, back to "Hound Dog" and up to **Peggy Lee's** current A&M album. The **Lieber-Stoller** evening is part of the New York YMHA special events program. . . . **Hoppers** is the latest party place: the New York restaurant-jazz room, recently opened, was used by Warner Brothers last week as reception site for **Rory Gallagher** in Manhattan for gigs. In attendance was Chrysalis label boss, **Terry Ellis**.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS: A presidential year and a restriction in campaign spending has meant more rock-pop performers are becoming more visible around politicians. The reason is fund raising. A recent New York magazine article revealed that the **Allman Brothers Band, Marshall Tucker** and the **Outlaws** raised \$100,000 for Gov. **Jimmy Carter's** presidential race with a benefit. **John Denver** put \$60,000 from two shows in Colorado Gov. **Richard Lamm's** campaign chest. **Linda Ronstadt** (\$12,000) and **Stephen Stills** (\$8000) did the same for Colorado senator **Gary Hart**. **Judy Collins** donated \$9500 for district rep. **Patricia Schroeder** while **Tom Hayden** running for the California senate received \$33,000 from **Linda Ronstadt-Jackson Browne**, the net of one of their double bills. **Fred Harris'** run for president went on a little longer through **Harry Chapin's** concert getting \$3200. **Birch Bayh** has had **Stills** and **Doc Severinsen** raising money through concerts. **Sargent Shriver** gets **Neil Diamond** shortly and **Phil Walden** is quoted as believing that rock stars could raise \$2M for **Carter's** campaign. **Elektra's Joe Smith** told New York that a group of record executives approached **George McGovern** and told him \$10M could be raised for his campaign, and got a turn down. But that was 1972 and the big picture has apparently changed.

LATIN PATTERN — Second Latin Music Awards will take place May 16 at New York's Beacon Theater. Meanwhile the salsa sound of New York's Latin community went to London where (see photo) **Stevie Winwood**, first time on stage in 20 months, stopped the traffic with an onstage jam with the **Fania All Stars**. With Winwood's **Nicky Marrero**. . . . Capitol Records, Canada recieved a kick in the geiger from the Atomic



Energy Control Board who complained at the "frivolous" use of the radiation warning symbol on the **Kraftwerk** LP, "Radio-Activity." Capitol intend to carry on believing that the LP cover will promote public recognition and not really have everyone diving for the shelters. . . . On **Don Kirshner's** "Rock Concert" Feb. 21 guests include **10cc, Ramsey Lewis**, and **Johnny Rodriguez**. "Midnight Special" on Feb. 20 has **Paul Anka, Neil Sedaka, Janis Ian, Richard Pryor, Captain and Tennille** and **Barry Manilow**. It is the third anniversary show featuring highlights of the past three seasons.

WIND FALL — **John Denver's** Windsong Records label gets a mammoth plug on Feb. 16 when Denver and three Windsong acts (**Starland Vocal Band, Starwood, Lee Holdridge**) will be the only guests on the **Merv Griffin** show for 90 minutes. The idea was arranged by **Jerry Weintraub**, Denver's personal manager. The Griffin show is aired on 80 stations across the country and Canada. . . . **Herbie Mann** and **Family of Mann** helped out nonprofit Jazz Interactions with a benefit appearance at the Riverboat, Feb. 29. . . . **Connee Boswell**, solo singer and once member of the **Boswell Sisters**, is in Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York for major surgery, room 732. . . . **Three Degrees** (in New York recently and rarely) continue their lucrative globe trotting with a spot as featured entertainers at the El Heraldo Awards, Mexico City. It is the Mexican equivalent of the Academy Awards, but includes awards to sports and national figures. . . . **Alice Cooper** gets to be Grand Marshall in this year's Mardi Gras parade down in New Orleans — actually the Grand Parade of the *Krewe of Endymion* — on Feb. 28. Accompanying Cooper on his float is the cyclops monster from "Nightmare" and an old tombstone or two. . . . **Bob Kaus** is the victim of **THE** virus.

ian dove