

McCartney Back And 'Off The Ground'

Paul McCartney is readying his next album, "Off The Ground," for a February 1 release. According to Rock Over London, Macca produced the Capitol LP with Julian Mendelsohn and wrote nine of the set's songs himself, collaborating again with Elvis Costello on two songs ("Mistress And Maid" and "The Lovers That Never Were").

Other songs include "Biker Like An Icon," "Peace In The Neighborhood," and the title track. Incidentally, the Santa Monica, CA-based ICE newsletter reports that each of the album's singles will feature several non-album B-sides. The Bossa Nova-inflected "Hope Of Deliverance" will be the album's first single and goes to radio January 11 backed with three non-LP numbers.

Beck Scores 'House'

Epic riffslinger Jeff Beck and keyboardist Jed Lieber (son of Jerry Lieber of Lieber & Stoller fame) scored "Frankie's House," a mini-series about a photojournalist covering the Vietnam War. The program is set to air on the A&E cable TV network February 21 and 23.

The disc, which Epic Soundtrax will have in stores January 12, is all-instrumental and consists primarily of the score, with the exception of an instrumental version of the R&B classic "Hi-Heel Sneakers."

Wyman Divorce Final

Rolling Stones bassist Bill Wyman and wife Mandy Smith's divorce is final. Last week, a UK High Court awarded Smith £580,000 — about a tenth of the sum she sought (ROL).

Eazy-E Solo Salvos

As Van Halen pointed out some years back, 5150 is the police code number for the criminally insane. Hence the title of N.W.A. frontman Eazy-E's four-track EP, "5150 Home 4 Tha Sick." Naughty By Nature wrote and produced the



opening salvo ("Only If You Want It"), Cold 187um of Above The Law produced "Neighborhood Sniper," and Rudy Ray Moore did the intro to "Merry Muthaf-kin X-Mas," Eazy's holiday ditty. Priority will have the disc in stores December 8.

February will see the release of Eazy-E's second solo album ("Temporary Insanity"). One track — a rocking rap called "Apocalypse" — features Slash, Duff McKagan, and touring keyboardist Ted Andreadis of Guns N' Roses.

Signs O' The Times

Lisa Lisa signs to Pendulum. UK faves Suede pact with Columbia.

L.A. Guns' Fave 'Cuts'

Despite what you may have heard elsewhere, L.A. Guns haven't split up. In fact, they're about to release an EP and are currently working on a full LP due in early summer. "Cuts" — which PLG will have in stores and at radio January 12 — offers two previously unreleased tunes ("Killer Mahari" and "Ain't The Same

'92") as well as covers of songs by the Damned ("Love Song"), the Ramones ("Rock And Roll High School"), Generation X ("Night Of The Cadillacs"), David Bowie ("Suffragette City"), and James Brown ("Papa's Got A Brand New Bag").

The The's 'Dusk' Disc

"Dusk" will be The The's fourth domestic Epic release. Bandleader Matt Johnson co-produced the record with Bruce Lampkov. The band's lineup, which includes noted axeman Johnny Marr (Smiths, Electronic), remains the same as on their last LP. The 10 original tunes include "Love Is Stronger Than Death," "Helpline Operator," "Sodium Light Baby," "Blue 'Er Than Midnight," and the lead track ("Dogs Of Lust"), which ships to radio January 11. The album arrives January 26.

'Slo-Blo' Cell

Before forming Cell, guitarist Jerry DiRienzo and drummer Keith Nealy were Sonic Youth's guitar techs for two years. After putting out a single on SY axeman Thurston Moore's Ecstatic Peace! label in early '91, they released their self-produced debut LP ("Slo-Blo") on Germany's City Slang label this past fall. On January 5, DGC will have the 10-cut disc in U.S. stores. Tunes include "Everything Turns," "Stratosphere," "Across The River," and "Fall," the last of which goes to radio next week.

R&B Foundation Turns 4

Seven trustees have joined the board of the Rhythm & Blues Foundation, including Atco/EastWest Chairman Sylvia Rhone, Perspective owners Jimmy "Jam" Harris & Terry Lewis, and LaFace Co-President Antonio "L.A." Reid.

SCREEN SCENE

Yearwood, Oslin & Wilder In 'The Thing Called Love'

Trisha Yearwood makes her dramatic debut playing herself. K.T. Oslin plays the owner of the Bluebird Cafe (a real-life showcase club), and Webb Wilder essays the role of a motel owner and "guru figure" in "The Thing Called Love," a film about young Nashville songwriters embroiled in a romantic triangle. Look sharp for WSM (AM)/Nashville staffer Larry Black, who plays a cabdriver in the forthcoming Paramount film.

River Phoenix, Samantha Mathis, and Dermot Mulroney also star, and Peter Bogdanovich ("The Last Picture Show") is directing the movie, which is expected in April. No label is yet set for the song-based soundtrack, which is expected to boast a mix of newcomers and established talent.

Incidentally, WSM's Black — who's previously appeared in two of the "Ernest" films and several TV shows — also has a supporting role as Val Kilmer's parole officer in "The Real McCoy." That film, which



Trisha Yearwood — the role of her lifetime.

stars Kilmer and Kim Basinger, is due next summer from Universal.

Sax & Violence

Saxophonist Clarence Clemons, who rose to fame via the E Street Band, has a small role in "Triple Incentive," a thriller currently shooting in Los Angeles. He'll play — you guessed it — a saxophone player. Carl Reiner is directing the MGM production, which also stars Armand Assante, Sean Young, and Sherilyn Fenn.

MUSIC DATEBOOK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

1977 / The "Saturday Night Fever" film opens nationally.
Born: C.J. Snare (Firehouse) 1964

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

1955 / Johnny Cash releases "Folsom Prison Blues."
1973 / Jermaine Jackson marries Hazel Gordy.
1977 / The Sex Pistols are denied entry into the U.S. two days before they're set to appear on "Saturday Night Live." Elvis Costello fills in for them.
1988 / James Brown is sentenced to a six-year jail term for leading police on a two-state car chase two months earlier.
Born: Dave Clark (Dave Clark Five) 1942

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

1966 / Jimi Hendrix's first single, "Hey Joe," is released.
1974 / Ian Hunter exits Mott The Hoople for a solo career.
1988 / Disco falsetto maestro Sylvester dies of complications from AIDS.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

1957 / Bobby Helms's "Jingle Bell Rock" charts for the first time.
1977 / Angered by taunting from Dan Aykroyd, Elvis Costello performs "Radio Radio" on "Saturday Night Live," after promising he'd do another song.
1986 / The Doobie Brothers reunite for a benefit concert at Palo Alto, CA. The resulting good vibes inspire a full reunion tour the following year.
Born: the late Eddie Kendrick (Temptations) 1939, Mike Mills (R.E.M.) 1956

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

1968 / John Lennon and Yoko Ono hold a press conference while sitting inside a bag at London's Royal Albert Hall.



Rod Stewart — former Faces frontman profiled.

1975 / Rod Stewart announces he'll leave the Faces.
1983 / Keith Richards marries model Patti Hansen in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Mick Jagger is the best man.
Born: Keith Richards (Rolling Stones) 1943

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

1965 / Carl Perkins records "Blue Suede Shoes."
1980 / The "9 To 5" film, which co-stars Dolly Parton, opens.
Born: Maurice White (Earth, Wind & Fire) 1941, Chuckii Booker 1965, Chris Robinson (Black Crowes) 1969

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

1957 / Elvis Presley receives his draft notice.
1973 / Bobby Darin, 37, dies of a heart attack.
1975 / Joe Walsh replaces Bernie Leadon as guitarist for the Eagles.
1981 / "Dreamgirls" — a musical loosely based on the Supremes' career — opens on Broadway.

— Paul Colbert

PRECIOUS METAL

The RIAA has issued the following awards for the month of November:

MULTIPLATINUM ALBUMS

"Deja Vu," Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Atlantic/AG (7 million); "Rhythm Nation 1814," Janet Jackson, A&M (6 million); "The Chase," Garth Brooks, Liberty; "Some Gave All," Billy Ray Cyrus, Mercury; "Reckless," Bryan Adams, A&M (5 million); "Use Your Illusion I," Guns N' Roses, Geffen; "Singles 1969-1973," Carpenters, A&M; "CSN," Crosby, Stills & Nash, Atlantic/AG (4 million); "Every Breath You Take: The Singles," Police, A&M; "Greatest Hits," Cat Stevens, A&M (3 million); "Unplugged," Eric Clapton, Reprise; "Beyond The Season," Garth Brooks; "Funky Divas," En Vogue, East-West/Atlantic Group (2 million).

PLATINUM ALBUMS

"Pure Country" ST, George Strait, MCA; "The Chase" and "Beyond The Season," Garth Brooks; "I Still Believe In You," Vince Gill,

MCA; "The Complete '50s Masters" (box set), Elvis Presley, RCA; "Boats, Beaches, Bars & Ballads" (box set), Jimmy Buffett, MCA; "Diva," Annie Lennox, Arista; "The Premiere Collection," Andrew Lloyd Webber, MCA; "Peace Sells... But Who's Buying," Megadeth, Capitol; "Deja Vu," Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.

GOLD ALBUMS

"What Hits?," Red Hot Chili Peppers, EMI/ERG; "Christmas," Neil Diamond, Columbia; "Pure Country" ST, George Strait; "The Chase" and "Beyond The Season," Garth Brooks; "Greatest Misses," Public Enemy, Def Jam/Columbia; "Broken," Nine Inch Nails, Nothing/TVT/Interscope/Atlantic Group; "Hearts In Armor," Trisha Yearwood, MCA; "I Still Believe In You," Vince Gill; "Greatest Hits," Queen, Hollywood; "Change Your World," Michael W. Smith, Reunion/Geffen; "American Pride," Alabama, RCA; "Greatest Hits Plus," Ricky Van Shelton, Columbia; "America's Least Wanted," Ugly Kid Joe, Star-

dog/Mercury; "Mad Mad World," Tom Cochrane, Capitol; "Music Of Andrew Lloyd Webber," Michael Crawford, Atlantic/AG; "Leap Of Faith," Kenny Loggins, Columbia; "Fear," Toad The Wet Sprocket, Columbia; "Anthology 1962-1974" (box set), Righteous Brothers, Rhino; "South Of Heaven" and "Reign In Blood," Slayer, Def American; "Eyes Of Innocence," Miami Sound Machine, Epic; "Greatest Hits," Jerry Clower, MCA.

PLATINUM SINGLES

"Rump Shaker," Wreckx-N-Effect, MCA.

GOLD SINGLES

"I'd Die Without You," PM Dawn, Gee Street/LaFace/Arista; "How Do You Talk To An Angel," Heights, Capitol; "What About Your Friends," TLC, LaFace/Arista; "Real Love," Mary J. Blige, Up-town/MCA; "Crossover," EPMD, RAL/Chaos; "Rhythm Is A Dancer," Snap, Arista; "James Brown Is Dead," L.A. Style, Arista.