Laserdisk Suppliers Read Success: Culver At VSDA: 'It's A Viable Format'

BY KEN TERRY

NEW YORK—With increased support from the major suppliers and growing manufacturing capacity, the laser disk industry appears poised for significant growth in the next year. The studios' new attitude toward the laser was symbolized by the presence of several heavyweight supplier executives at an Aug. 5 press conference given by the Laser Disc Assn. at the Video Software Dealers Assn. convention in Las Vegas. Among those in attendance were Bud O'Shea, president of MGM/UA Home Video and 20th Century-Fox, Paul Culver, president of RCA/Columbia Pictures Home Video; Eric Doctorow, senior VP/GM of Paramount Home Video; Dave Goldstein, VP of operations at CBS/Fox Home Video; and Geoff Holmes, senior VP of Time Warner. Addressing the attendees, O'Shea said, "In the last year, all of a sudden, people have realized laser is a business venture that's growing and will keep on growing." Similarly, Culver told Billboard, "It's a viable format. It's a good, clean, wonderful way to sell our product, and we'd encourage the growth of this industry.

MGM/UA and RCA/Columbia Pictures are among the studios now releasing new titles on laser disk simultaneously with the video, with quite different items. According to Dave Wallace, marketing manager for Pioneer LDCA, which manufactures laser discs for RCA/Columbia, the only studios not issuing videodiscs day-and-date with cassettes are (Continued on page 8).

PolyGram Ready for Major Acts For QSound System

BY SUSAN NUNZIATA

NEW YORK—The developers of the three-dimensional QSound process are seeking to move audio beyond the realm of stereo, and on Aug. 13 PolyGram N.V. became the first record company to support the effort by signing a multiyear, nonexclusive licensing agreement with Archeon Communications Inc., parent company of QSound.

PolyGram has agreed to release up to 20 recordings by major acts featuring the QSound process in the next 18 months. Archer will reportedly receive a royalty of 1% on all recordings sold utilizing the QSound technology, although neither company would confirm the amount of the royalty.

As part of the agreement, PolyGram will acquire an option to purchase approximately 15% of the treasury stock of Archeon Communications at $17.50 per share for a period of two years, a total of approximately $87 million.

With the artist community in general like this and take it we will be there in helping QSound build up their company based on the demand," says Michael Kuhn, senior VP of the Poly (Continued on page 8)

Union Vs. Show Industries: Even Fogelman's House Picketed

BY EARL PAIGE

LOS ANGELES—A local union that has met resistance from Show Industries in its efforts to represent the company's warehouse workers stepped up the pressure last week by picketing Music Plus stores, the house of show president Lou Fogelman, the offices of parent firm Shamrock Holdings, and the head office of music industry major Shakin. The union has also placed an advertisement in the Hollywood Reporter.

By taking its plight to the public, the union hopes to avoid a protracted legal battle with Music Plus involving the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C.

After an election in which the company's warehouse workers voted to unionize, Show Industries failed in its attempts to void the results by questioning the union balloting process (Billboard, Feb. 10). When the local union certifying the election valid, Show Industries appealed.

In addition to the picketing and adversement, July 22 union memo vowing to take the campaign national via letters to all the recording artists on Billboard's Top Pop Albums chart.

 Officials at Show decline to discuss (Continued on page 8)

Rapper Hammers Out Another Week On Top: Bolton's 'Georgia' Makes Peach Of A Debut

M.C. HAMMER's "Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em" gets its 11th week at No. 1 on the Top Pop Albums chart. It's the longest run in the top spot since George Michael's "Faith" held forth for 12 weeks in 1988. If Hammer holds on for another week, he'll tie Michael for the longest run at No. 1 since the "Dirty Dancing" soundtrack reigned for 18 weeks in 1987-88.

"Wilson Phillips" edges back up to No. 2, boosted by its second single, "Renaissance," which leaps from No. 12 to No. 6 on the Hot 100. It's likely to become the trio's second straight No. 1 hit — and could lift the album to No. 1 with it.

Poison's "Flesh And Blood" dips to No. 3 after climbing as high as No. 2 last week. Barring a turnar... (Continued on page 8)

Ex-Chicago Teacher Forms 'Parents For Rock And Rap'

BY MOIRA MCCORMICK

CHICAGO—a 66-year-old retired teacher here has formed a nation-wide anti-censorship organization called Parents For Rock and Rap. Mary Morello of north suburban Liberal, Ill., summed up: "As a member of the Federation of Michigan, a member of the House of Representatives, I support the proposition of an appropriate bill (which the Morello subsequently voted for.

Morello says Parents For Rock and Rap has members in 25-30 states, including Illinois, New York, Wisconsin, Colorado, Louisiana, and Ohio. "We plan to get organized on a state-by-state basis," she says, "and each state organization will be able to receive help from the central organization when dealing with censorship situations (Continued on page 8)

An Extended Run. Atlantic VP Arif Mardin recently signed a long-term contract to continue his work as a staff producer for the label. The arrangement was made jointly by Atlantic chairman and CEO Ahmet Ertegun and Atlantic president and chief operating officer Doug Morris. Four-time Grammy winner Mardin's latest production, Bette Midler's "Some People," is slated for a Sept. 25 release. Shown from left are Mel Lewinter, Atlantic senior VP and chief financial officer, Mardin, and Morris.

Fast Facts: Jon Bon Jovi's "Blaze Of Glory/Young Guns II" is the top new entry on the pop albums chart at No. 2. The group Bon Jovi's last two albums reached No. 1.

Janet Jackson lands her first No. 1 hit on the adult contemporary chart with "Come Back To Me." The song also jumps to No. 2 on both the Hot 100 and black singles charts, which suggests that it will become the year's second single-following Mariah Carey's "Vision Of Love"—to top all three surveys.

Faith No More lands its first top 10 hit as "Epic" jumps to No. 10. It's also the first top 10 hit for producer Matt Wallace.

The Boys have the top new entry on the Hot 100 with "Crazy," which bows at No. 61. The group's "Dial My Heart" hit No. 13 last year.

Breath's "Say A Prayer" enters the Hot 100 at No. 75. The group's 1988 album, "All That Jazz," was the first debut release in A&M history to yield three top 10 hits.

Vixen's second single, "Rev It Up," vaults from No. 59 to No. 54 in its second week on the pop albums chart. The group's single "How Much Love" leaps from No. 84 to No. 69 on the Hot 100.

We Get Letters: In the time-marches-on department, Marc Weiblott of Willowsdale, Ontario, notes that Mariah Carey's displacing of Glenn Medeiros at No. 1 on the Hot 100 last month marks the first time successive chart-toppers have been by artists born in the '70s. Nick Liberis of Athens, Greece, notes that Madonna's "Vogue" was her first single to log 16 weeks in the top 40 ... But Chris Gruenolof of Syracuse, N.Y., adds that her follow-up, "Handy Funky," was the first top 10 entry (excluding No. 1's) in more than 10 years to reach its peak in only its fifth week on the Hot 100. The last was Fleetwood Mac's too-weird-for-radio "Tusk" in 1979.

Jay Wees of Green Bay, Wis., wonders: "Can it be noted that Bell Biv DeVoe's "Poison" was the first top 10 hit to include the phrases, 'laid,' 'do her,' and 'hot'?" Jay, it most certainly cannot. This column has very high standards and we're not going to start going into the gutter just to keep readers from flipping to Inside Track. No way. Nice try, though.