

RPM

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Mail Registration No. 1351



Jason McCoy & co-writer Terrine Barnes at recent SOCAN #1 party.

see page 2

Vancouver grabs industry attention with Music West

Vancouver's Plaza of Nations will play host to the fifth annual Music West Festival and Conference. Some of the industry's most important players will take part in seminars, multi-media presentations, a musical exposition, and North America's leading skateboarding event, Slam City Jam.

The Music West Conference will focus on the themes of futurism (seizing new technologies), empowerment (dominating your own career) and activism (breaking the rules to get noticed).

One element of the conference this year will be the section dubbed Mediactivism: The Power Of The Word, featuring a series of spoken word performances by several noted writers and artists, including Lydia Lunch (Teenage Jesus and the Jerks), Exene Cervenka (LA punk band X), John Oswald (the creator of Plunderphonics) and Professor Griff (founder of Public Enemy).

This section will also feature DJ Phelch Dunderhead offering live broadcast footage of pirate

radio's FUCC, and interviewing pirate radio activist Stephen Dunifer. Scott Kerman, author of All Sold Out! How To Sneak Into Sporting Events And Concerts, will share his secrets on 'legally' crashing concerts. As well, there will be a special highlight showing of The Power Of The Word, a documentary on artists working outside the mainstream media.

Smells Like Indie Spirit will focus on the power of the indies and their struggle to remain independent. Speakers in this forum include Bill Gilliam (Alternative Tentacles UK), Tom Sarig (TVT), Denise Donlon (MuchMusic), Jason Miller (MCA Concerts) and Janice Ungaro (Z95), Grant Lawrence (Mint Records), Kelly Mulvy (Outside Music) and Denise Sheppard (Chart).

The Executive Suite will focus on the top end of the business, featuring speakers such as Rusty Harmon (manager, Hootie & The Blowfish), Tim Sommer (Atlantic Records), Terry McBride (Netwerk), John Reid (president, A&M Canada), Mitch Brody (MCA), Rosemary Carroll (lawyer, Courtney Love, Patti Smith), and Mike Gormley (former manager, Concrete Blonde, The Bangles).

High Tech Is Here To Stay will focus on making money from the Net, via performance rights, sponsorship and record sales. Speakers on this panel will include John Kertzer (Microsoft), Sook Yin Lee (MuchMusic), Erin Haley (Silver Management) and Scott Blum (iMusic).

Compose Yourself is a songwriter's panel,

which will also focus on the business side of songwriting; publishing, synchronization rights, and film and television scoring. Panelists will include Doug Rasheed (writer of Gangsta's Paradise), Michael Dolan (LA Music Connection), Tom Wilson (Junkhouse) and Johnette Napolitano (Concrete Blonde).

Master Producers Workshops will feature hands-on sessions with world-class producers Mark Hudson (Aerosmith, MeatLoaf), Matt Wallace (Faith No More, John Hiatt) and Sylvia Massy (Tool).

Sound Advice will feature platforms on various needs of budding artists, including getting recorded, finding management, getting gigs and self-promotion. Those featured here include Matthew Page (Page Publications), Peter Karroll (manager, Rymes With Orange), Jim Cardillo (Warner/Chappell) and Graham Stairs (Latitude Records).

The festival portion of Music West '96 will feature more than 200 bands, most of them unsigned. A complete list of those bands firmed to perform will be released shortly, but some of those firmed thus far include Bad Religion, J.J. Cale, Rhythm Pigs, DDT, Treble Charger, Rule 62 and Stereolab.

Music West '96 is also making history as the first on-line Music Conference, with delegates able to log on and participate in seminars, live music broadcasts and other interactive events. Every

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COVER STORY

The real McCoy has a double SOCAN whammy

Jason McCoy keeps picking up SOCAN #1 Awards on a regular basis. He had so many last year, the SOCAN people held off on his last two so they could host a much more photo opportunistic double #1 party. And besides, his busy tour schedule kept him on the road over that period of time.

As it turned out the Lone Star Cafe in downtown Toronto, was packed to capacity on March 27, with great representation from MCA (even Ed Harris was in town for the party). McCoy was pretty excited when he was presented with his two #1 awards. And then he had the opportunity to publicly acknowledge (kiss) his songwriting partner, fiancée Terrine Barnes.

The first #1 award was for Learnin' A Lot About Love, which reached #1 on the RPM Country 100 on November 13/95, and the second for Candle, which topped the chart on March 18/96.

Midem's 30th anniversary gained in numbers

Xavier Roy, chief executive of the Reed Midem Organization, has disclosed that Midem '96, the 30th anniversary of the conference, which was held in Cannes, France, January 21-25, attracted more exhibitors and participants than in previous years.

In all, there were 3611 participating companies from 79 countries, up from last year's 3341, an increase of 8.08 per cent.

A total of 9461 participants attended this year, which included the press.

As well, there were 1780 exhibitors at 420 stands from 51 countries, which represented an exhibitor augmentation of 14.47 per cent.

The US, with 588 companies, had the largest number of delegates, with 176 companies mounting exhibits. The UK was next with 577 attending delegates and with 186 manning booths. France was third with 435 delegates. France however, led the

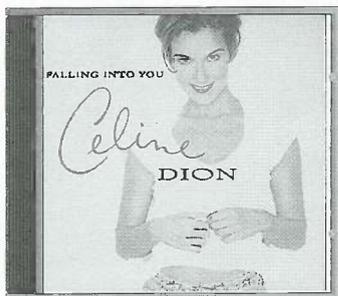
way with exhibiting companies which numbered 279.

Germany was fourth with 323 delegates, followed by the Netherlands with 181, Italy with 179, Belgium with 146, Spain with 131 and Canada with 125. Japan trailed Canada with 92 attending delegates.

There were 11 new territories registered this year. They were Algeria, Bermuda, Equator, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Liechtenstein, Mozambique, New Caledonia, Puerto Rico, Republic of Latvia, Senegal and the Ukraine.

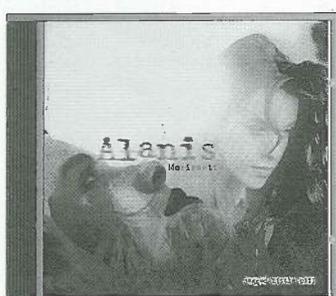
Midem Asia, which will be held in Hong Kong (May 14-16), is already boasting healthy first figures. Canada has already committed to mounting a stand (RPM - April 1/96). We will have a report on this important second year of the Asia conference next week.

NO. 1 ALBUM



CELINE DION
Falling Into You
Columbia - 33068-H

NO. 1 HIT



IRONIC
Alanis Morissette
Maverick

ALBUM PICK



STONE TEMPLE PILOTS
Tiny Music . . .
Atlantic - 82871-P

HIT PICK



OLD MAN & ME
Hootie & The Blowfish
Atlantic

WEST continued from page 2

delegate and panelist will have an e-mail address, which will be accessible via an onscreen directory. Delegates will have the opportunity to create their own homepage, via a computerized form.

Finally, Music West has designed a special

Kick Butt promotion campaign aimed at preventing smoking among youth, and to generally present all issues related to the tobacco industry, including the sponsorship of music industry events. The Kick Butt slogan will be on display on all conference literature, marketing materials, and on site at the Plaza Of Nations.

Although the deadline has already passed for early bird delegate pass prices (\$169), full Music West '96 passes are available before April 15 for the discounted price of \$199, which includes access to the conference, festival, and the Slam City Jam skateboarding competition, which is being run as part of the event.

The Pindoff Project targets golf tournament

The Toronto area Lionhead Golf and Country Club will be the setting for the Doane Raymond 4th annual charity golf classic in support of the Canadian Red Cross Society (May 28).

Of particular interest to the record industry is that half of all proceeds raised at this year's tournament will be donated to The Pindoff Project, a foundation launched by Eva and Kroum Pindoff to supply the needs of life to war-ravaged Bosnia.

Terry Stevens, vice-president of Pindoff Records, points out that both Music World and Pindoff Record sales are committed to the ongoing

support of its funding for Bosnian relief activities, which, over the past couple of years, has raised several hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Stevens is hopeful that as many representatives possible from the record and broadcast industries will take part and, in turn, Music World and Pindoff Record Sales will sponsor a foursome or one of the other sponsorship options available. Music World has already committed to the dinner sponsorship.

For tournament details and corporate sponsorship opportunities contact Deborah Pike at 905-890-100 ext. 218.

A pair of appointments announced at CMRRA

David Basskin, president of the Canadian Musical Reproduction Rights Agency (CMRRA) announced two promotions within the agency. Fred Merritt has been named vice-president, while Caroline Rioux has been promoted to director of licensing.

Merritt joined the agency in 1990 as an accountant and became director of operations in 1992. Prior to joining the CMRRA, Merritt worked at Omnibus Computer Graphics and Nelyana Ltd. In his new position, Merritt will assist Basskin in the general management of the company, the negotiation of CMRRA's licensing agreements, and will oversee financial and administrative issues and the synchronization licensing department.

Rioux joined the CMRRA in 1991 as a member of the licensing department, becoming director of independent licensing in 1994. Under her guidance, the agency succeeded in signing its Mechanical Licensing Agreement with more than 150 indie labels. Prior to joining the CMRRA, Rioux worked in the Quebec music industry.

In her new position, Rioux will oversee the operation of the agency's mechanical licensing department, which issues more than 130,000 licenses per year to Canada's major and independent labels and record clubs. Both Merritt and Rioux will report to Basskin.

8th Annual Beaches Jazz Festival dates confirmed

Toronto's Queen Street district will once again play host to the annual Beaches Jazz Festival. The eighth annual edition of the festival will take place the weekend of July 24-28, 1996.

The popular Jazz Streetfest will feature more than 40 bands performing nightly on selected street corners, balconies and rooftops in the Queen Street East area, between Woodbine Avenue and Neville Park. The mile-long Streetfest is a unique feature of the Beaches Festival.

From 6:30 pm to 11 pm each night from July 24 through the 27th, more than 300 performers will offer a wide variety of music, including calypso, latin, fusion, steel drum and traditional jazz. On the 27th and 28th from noon until 6 pm at the Alex

Christie Bandshell at Kew Gardens, MC Bill King will introduce a wide array of local and international jazz artists.

As well, arts and crafts exhibitors will display and sell their wares at Kew Gardens/Alex Christie, which is located at Queen and Lee Streets.

The Beaches Festival has raised more than \$100,000 for local charities in the past eight years via the sale of t-shirts and other memorabilia, with the money going towards non-profit organizations such as seniors groups, home and school organizations, and individuals in need.

Further info on the events and potential performers can be obtained via the Beaches Jazz Festival Hotline, 416-698-2152.

Canadian Opera Company Orchestra assists Canadian tenor - by Bill Watt

Margison releases new CD on French and Italian arias

On April 5, the now renowned Canadian tenor Richard Margison is scheduled to appear in concert at Toronto's swank McGill Club to launch his latest album. The album, released on the CBC label, is titled Richard Margison Sings French and Italian Arias.

On the album, Margison is accompanied by the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, conducted by Richard Bradshaw, about which, more later.

Your correspondent had the pleasure of meeting Margison there, immediately upon his return from New York where the night before he had performed at The Met in Carmen. Though tired, he was gracious and the interview became a conversation filled with delightful tidbits about opera on the international scene, food, earlier singers and how one relaxes after the taxing demands of opera and concerts.

Opera remains his favourite vehicle of performance, but he concedes that in concert one can actually present the best of the best.

We knew what he meant. In many operas one must listen to long expository passages before enjoying the better known arias. In concert one receives a continuous buffet of music easier to hear and more enjoyable to sing.

Travelling the world in his career Margison has the opportunity to perform in the best of the concert halls and opera houses. When asked to choose the best, or at least, a favourite, he diplomatically

declined, but did allow that those of Antwerp, Brussels and San Francisco score high.

Interestingly, in Vienna, a singer's intended High C frequently becomes, or appears to sound like C Sharp because of the key in which the orchestra is set -- to make it sound better.

The sweetness of his voice has been compared to that of the late Jussi Bjoerling but there is no other comparison to the man. Bjoerling, in addition to being inordinately fond of the grape, was also a notorious womanizer. Mr. Margison is abstemious in habit and a devoted family man.

Indeed, if there are any regrets over his chosen



career, it is that it sometimes separates him from his wife and child too long.

He's quite busy and when asked if he ever

intended to essay Wagner, replied in the affirmative but that he'd have to wait until after the turn of the century. He is booked that far ahead.

The purpose of the interview however, was to discuss the latest album. Mr. Margison regards the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra under Richard Bradshaw's direction to be a jewel in the crown of opera and he enjoys singing with it.

Our review will follow upon its release, but for now we hope the gentleman can find at least some time for the sailing and fishing that he loves almost as much as his singing.

Hootie hits diamond with Cracked Rear View

Warner Music Canada has announced that the major label debut from South Carolina's Hootie & The Blowfish has topped the diamond mark in Canada with their album Cracked Rear View. The diamond certification is emblematic of sales of one million units.

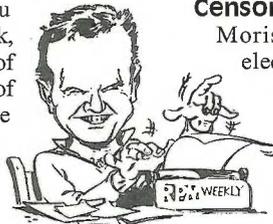
The album, released to little fanfare in the summer of '94, went on to produce smash hits in the songs Time, Let Her Cry, Hold My Hand and Only Wanna Be With You. The album has topped sales of 12 million units in the US alone.

The news of the diamond certification comes just as the group is set to release its second Warner album, Fairweather Johnson, which is due later this month. The lead single, Old Man & Me, has been shipped to radio this week.

Hootie & The Blowfish are expected to undertake a lengthy world concert tour this summer.

WALT SAYS . . . !

Here's an interesting history!!! You might even call it *Memoirs of Jan Matejcek*, who put together this fascinating *History of BMI Canada and PROCAN*. This is a part of the history of the business that should be must reading for anyone who wants to be a knowledgeable part of the music, publishing and recording business. Matejcek knew both sides of the fence. He was on both sides, so he had a huge memory bank to draw from. Great reading.



with *Elvira Caprese*

Call Nancy Gyokeres at PROCAN for a copy. By the way retirement wasn't for Matejcek. He keeps himself busy shuttling back and forth to his native Prague where he lectures at the Charles University. He's also on the advisory committee for the International Prague Spring Music Festival. As well, he's coordinating the publication with Germany's Schott Music Publishers, of previously unpublished original compositions by Glenn Gould. (EC: *Right on, Jan!!!*)

Isidore's doing okay!!! Canada's Mr. CD man, Cinram's Isidore Philosophie has spread his image around the world and he comes up looking pretty good. He's got plants in Canada, the US, Latin America and Europe. That's where he is geographically, but look where he is financially. Sales this year were \$270.1 million as opposed to last year's \$144.8 million. Not too shabby. Get this, earnings before taxes were \$35.1 million compared to \$23.2 million last year, something I think most of us could live with. There's a bunch more positive news, but you get the drift. (EC: *Success breeds success. And besides, he's a nice man!!!*)

Loyalties for sale??? So the Royal Canadian Air Farce and This Hour Has 22 Minutes are on the block, so to speak, and there's a scramble to get in on the pickings. In this corner from CBC-TV is Phyllis Platt and George Anthony, only one of who has any warmth or charm, and it's certainly not Platt. I like Anthony's stand. A bit arrogant, but why not. The Sun's Jim Slotek in the April 3 edition, quotes him as saying "We don't do bidding wars. If somebody wants to go elsewhere for bigger bucks, they can. The CBC is about opportunity, not golden parachutes." Right on George! If it wasn't for CBC, the Air Farce, and certainly the 22 Minutes bunch probably wouldn't be known outside their own circle of friends. Better to stay where they're cozy and drawing over a million viewers each week than to go for the big bucks and risk the chance of a disappearing audience, not to mention handlers who will probably introduce a lot of restrictions down the road. It can happen. My guess is they'll stay. (EC: *I hope they don't let the lawyer call the shots!!!*)

The hate runs deep!!! BM, that old hack radio programmer from the '60s just won't let go of that chip on his shoulder about Cancon. He took great delight in referring to Canadian artists, ALL Canadian artists as "parasites". Someone reported one of his frequent outbursts to the CRTC, but by the time they got around to investigate, the logging tape had mysteriously disappeared. Now he's in television, and the rant goes on and on to nauseam. Of course, when he wants to interview a Canadian star, who is the product of the Cancon regulations, he conveniently forgets his anti-Cancon stance. Unfortunately we still have a bunch of his clones in the broadcasting business. (EC: *Radio jocks never die, they're now looking for jobs!!!*)

Censorship??? Rumour has it that Alanis Morissette's "F" word has been electronically beeped out of her song that's included in *Oh What A Feeling*, the 25th Juno commemorative 4-CD set. It's on the early shipment, but check out one of the later shipments. Wow! What a collectable asset. But then, does that raise a legal issue?

The artists have a morale code now, and only they can authorize anything being beeped out. She was pretty adamant on the Grammy and Juno shows, to keep it in. If the track was tampered with, I wonder if she knows? (EC: *You slay me. Someone criticized you for using the fuck word and you wimp out!!!*)

FCC says bend over??? When you present a threat to the American way of bullying, they pull out all the shots. Mickey Kantor has been doing pretty well, shit-disturbing on his own. But now enter the all-powerful Federal Communications Commission, namely some guy named Scott Blake, who says he's "distressed" over the issue of the country music channel. Well, if push comes to shove, our regulator chief, Keith Spicer, will win. I saw him push a comedian out of the way, who was taking some liberties with his introduction. (EC: *It would be nice to see some Canadian pushiness with that NAFTA bunch!!!*)

Let's go Triple A!!! There's a lot of shakin' out going on in Toronto radio. The changes will hardly be noticed. Toronto programmers seemed to have lost their adventurous spunk that made this a very exciting town back in the '60s, '70s and '80s. If The Mix would take the classic rock out of its format and if CHUM-FM would take the ho-hum out of its format and if Q107 went further than head to head with CFNY, we just might have a Triple A format here. Of course, they would have to bring someone in to make it work. You have to have guts to make this kind of format change. Warren Cosford is making it work down Windsor way, and by the end of this year, he could make the biggest news in Canadian radio. The big

Torontonian becomes star in *Beauty and the Beast*

On stage, Belle falls in love with the Beast, who turns into a prince. But behind the scenes a Canadian singer who was the understudy to the lead part of Belle, becomes the star of a musical that continues to draw capacity houses.

Melissa Thomson began with the Toronto production on the very first day it opened and it suddenly became a Cinderella story for her. Previously, she had been in the casts of *Les Miserables* and in *Miss Saigon*, so she arrived with a great deal of experience, which is quite obvious.

Thomson becomes Belle, and she could quite comfortably step into any Disney production of *Snow White* or *Cinderella*. But as Belle, her stage presence, vocal range and projection is exceptional.

This production continues to draw an audience of all ages and may be perceived by some as a children's show. But it not only holds you in your seat, but even to a constant theatregoer, the new effects and technology simply carry you away. -SK

stumbling block could be that programmers from the adventurous past have grown old and they're a bad influence on the younger crowd who would like to shake up the town again. (EC: *What radio course were you involved in???*)

Protecting the turf??? Heard a very interesting story about one company hiring someone from another company. Apparently it was a done deal. But, 24 hours later, it was undone. There's one company that jealously guards its inner workings and no one, NO ONE, leaves that company unless the two guys in charge say so. No one who has left on their own, and there haven't been too many, ever go on to bigger and better things. When they're ushered out of the company, they might just as well kiss their ass goodbye, and a few have. And, let's talk about the old boy's network. Same guys in charge. This is sacrosanct big time. It's not too big a club, but they are in powerful positions of influence. Interesting too, there are a couple of pretenders to the club. But they don't stand a chance. These guys are survivors. Look at their early beginnings and look where they are today! (EC: *I noticed you didn't even use initials here. I guess the real names will be in your book, after you're gone!!!*)

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M - Music was composed by a Canadian
A - Artist who is featured is a Canadian citizen
P - Production was wholly recorded in Canada
L - Lyrics were written by a Canadian

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Fred Penner offers some quiet-time kids music

Parents know full well the value of very nice, quiet music in helping to get the little ones in to bed. Oak Street artist Fred Penner, a parent himself, recognized the value of 'the quiet moments' which led to the release of *Moonlight Express* his tenth album.

Although 15 songs are listed on the CD, in many ways, *Moonlight Express* is a singular production, with each song blending into the next to form a flowing narrative of song, much like a musical dream.

The title track is about a child's journey to dreamland, brought to life by Penner's voice and some magical musical instruments. Noted songwriter John Capek contributed *Family Of Man*, which blends some strong a capella harmonizing with a bedtime blessing. The famous team of Paul Williams and Kenny Ascher (who penned Kermit the Frog's *Rainbow Connection*), contribute the song *I'm Going To Go Back There Someday*, while fellow children's entertainer Norman Foote collaborated with Penner on *Growing*.

Kidz Music promoting Education for the Future

It was in November of last year that Toronto-based Kidz Music Co. introduced the *Educating For The Future* workshops, which introduce music and the recording process to elementary school students, allowing them to become recording artists and engineers for a day.

More than 70 schools and school boards across Metro Toronto and surrounding region are participating in the free workshops, with Kidz Music gaining positive response from students, teachers and parents.

The workshops consist of an interactive lecture, demonstrations, and an actual recording session. The session produces a six-

According to Penner, quiet time music is important not only for the younger set, but also to give parents a breather as well.

"It's important for children to learn to use quiet moments. Everyone needs time out and time away where they can just refocus their thoughts. If children learn this early in life, they can balance the insanity and the constant bombardment of stimuli faced every day."

Among those popping up on the album are opera diva Tracy Dahl, and the Winnipeg Youth Chorus, who have worked with Penner on numerous other releases.

Moonlight Express is the tenth album in Penner's impressive twenty-year career, with his nine previous albums topping sales of one million units worldwide. Penner has also put his face on eight home videos, and remains the host of the popular CBC-TV kids series, *Fred Penner's Place*, now in its 12th season and now seen six days a week. Penner is a Juno-award winner, multi-Gemini award nominee, and recipient of the Order of Canada.

song school tape featuring students singing traditional kids songs. The children also get a lasting memory of the project, by being able to purchase the tapes, with a portion of the proceeds going to the school.

On April 12 at 7 pm, YTV will feature the Kidz Music recording of the St. Francis Assisi School singing *Take Me Out To The Ball Game* on the station's *Blue Jays 20th Season Special*.

Kidz Music will also introduce a series of new fundraising programs during *Education Week*, which takes place from May 6 to 10. The Toronto-based *Academy of Music* has also entered the fray, donating a Yamaha keyboard and guitar to be raffled off in June.

Penner will help promote this release with a lengthy concert tour of North America, featuring up to 50 Canadian dates.

"I'm very excited about presenting my tenth album. It's the product of 10 years of creating, 15 years of performing for children and 25 years of entertaining. It's an evolution of sorts; it brings together so many pieces of my life and career, and something that I look forward to sharing with the people that have been a huge part of it."

The album is available on the Oak Street label, which is distributed in Canada by Sony Music. The *Fred Penner's Place* home video collection is available in numerous retail outlets across Canada, including Zellers, The Bay and Moyer's.

Sony acquires Street Fighter II animated video

Sony Music Video has acquired the Canadian rights for *Street Fighter II*, the animated martial arts video, distributed through Sony Wonder Canada.

Street Fighter II is a 90-minute slam-bang animated feature, which was originally released in 1994 to Japanese theatre audiences. The film's Japanimation technique attracted a large cult following, grossed over \$16 million at the box office, and ended up as one of the top five grossing movies in Japan that year.

The video version of *Street Fighter II* was released in Canada in January of this year, and had gone gold (5,000 units) by the end of February.

Street Fighter II is based on one of North America's most popular arcade titles. Along with its high quality animation, the video's soundtrack features such Sony artists as Alice In Chains, Korn and Silverchair. The video is available in two versions; an edited version for younger viewers, and an unedited version appealing to older kids.

ON TOUR

Celine Dion, as noted last week (April 1/96), is embarking on a full cross-Canada tour to promote her new album, *Falling Into You*, her first such venture in a couple of years. The tour kicks off on May 18th at Vancouver's GM Place. Other stops on the tour include Calgary's Saddledome (May 20), the Edmonton Coliseum (21), Saskatchewan Place in Saskatoon (23), the Winnipeg Arena (25), Thunder Bay's Fort William Gardens (26), the Sudbury Arena (28), Hamilton's Copps Coliseum (29), the Corel Centre Theatre in Ottawa (May 31 and June 1), the Jonquiere Arena (June 4), the Colisee Forumle Concert in Quebec City (7,8), Halifax Metro Centre (12), Sydney's Centre 2000 (13), the Moncton Coliseum (15), Saint John's Harbour Station (16), three shows at the new Molson Centre in Montreal (18, 19 & 20) and two shows at Toronto's Molson Amphitheatre (22, 23). Appearing with Dion on the tour are Montreal-based group *Soul Attorneys*. Dion's *Colour Of My Love* album went diamond in Canada last fall. The album previous to that, simply entitled *Celine Dion*, is already 9X platinum and fast approaching diamond, while *Falling Into You* has reportedly been certified 5X platinum already, in just its first two weeks. Chances are, Dion could become the first artist,

domestic or otherwise, to have three diamond albums in Canada.

Rapid Jimmy Buffett facts! Not only is Toronto the opening stop on Buffett's *Banana Wind Tour '96*, but Mr. Margaritaville is also coming to town early to do rehearsals for the tour, in a secret location. Ticket sales for the tour have been brisk. Some 18,000 seats for his Cleveland show sold out in one hour, 40,000 tickets for his two Detroit dates sold out in two hours, while 80,000 tickets for four Boston shows are also already sold out.

Bob Dylan just keeps rolling on (like a rolling stone?), having recently garnered some rave reviews for his MTV *Unplugged* CD and video. The Dylan road show rolls into Toronto on April 27 and 28 for a pair of shows at the newly renovated Concert Hall. Opening the sets is Aimee Mann.

Grammy winner Ramblin' Jack Elliot is firmed for the Horseshoe Tavern on April 28. Elliot, who records on the Redhouse label, won in the best traditional folk category at the Grammys for *South Coast*, his studio album in more than 25 years. According to playwright Sam Sheppard, Elliot is "a wandering, mythical, true American minstrel".

Club Stuff: Warner's *Son Volt* is firmed for The Opera House on May 2, with Toronto being the band's only Canadian city on their current tour. The band recently wowed all in attendance at the South By Southwest Festival. MCA's *Loud Lucy* is at the Horseshoe on April 9 with guests Tracy Bonham and Solution A.D. *Loud Lucy* released its debut album, *Breathe*, on the Geffen label. EMI's *Once Blue* are at the El Mocambo on April 29, the Horseshoe on April 30, and *C'est What* on May 1. *Archers Of Loaf*, on Alias Records, are at the Rivoli on April 30 with guest Tuscardero and Shot Maker. *Nettwerk's Wild Strawberries* are firmed for Lee's Palace on April 26. *Rusty* perform for an all-ages crowd at Lee's on Saturday afternoon (2 pm) April 20, with guest *Squirrel*, *SuperGarage* and *Slowburn*. There is also a 19 and over show that same night.



A little bit celtic, a little bit rock and roll...

Rawlins Cross: looking for a Ground Swell of support

by Ron Rogers

Most bands that originate from the Atlantic provinces are very family oriented, evident of the extremely close ties that bind that run rampant in the eastern region. Ground Swell/Warner Music artist Rawlins Cross are in many ways the exception to that rule. This six piece band is comprised of players from three different provinces (Newfoundland, PEI and Nova Scotia), but all six are joined together in a common musical intent.

Like many of their east coast brethren, Rawlins Cross has chosen to find their musical path via the traditional melodies of their ancestors. But unlike other east coast acts, such as The Irish Descendants or The Barra MacNeils, Rawlins Cross has chosen to meld their celtic inspiration with some good ole fashioned rock and roll.

The group first emerged from what was a rapidly developing Atlantic music scene back in 1989 with their first independent release, *A Turn Of The Wheel*. That was followed by another indie release three years later, 1992's *Crossing The Border*. But it was 1993's *Reel 'N' Roll* that really earned the band the attention of major label talent searchers. Featuring catchy crossover hits in the title track and *Long Night*, the album earned the band a pair of 1995 East Coast Music Awards (recording group, pop/rock artist).

The folks at Warner Music Canada liked what they heard in Rawlins Cross. But rather than just sign the band, Warner went one step further and signed the band's label, Ground Swell Records.

Ian MacKinnon is truly a man of many hats with Rawlins Cross. He dabbles with several different instruments, including the trumpet, tin whistle, harmonica and bodhran, and is considered a world-class highland bagpipe player. MacKinnon is not only a member of Rawlins Cross, but he is also one of the founders of the Ground Swell label, and a key member of the East Coast Music Association executive.

MacKinnon feels that the band had gone about as far as it could have gone with the relatively small marketing and promotional dollars of Ground Swell, which is why the deal with Warner was such a pleasant occurrence.

"This is the first recording we've had that's been this organized and had some strategies put together that really make sense. Having Warner working with us, in both the marketing and distribution ends, we've really seen the difference. They've done a fabulous job and they're really committed to the project.

"I think it's just a case of better resources. Certainly there is the financial resources there in the marketing end. Warner's committed to advertising, and having the distribution network across the country to make sure the records are in the stores. It's something that with Ground Swell we just didn't have, we're a very small operation, there's only so much you can do over the telephone."

MacKinnon says that Ground Swell was doing the best it could in terms of marketing the product to the rest of the country. But he admits that the band needed the first-class organizational touches

of a major label in order to make the next step.

"We did market outside of the Atlantic region to some extent, the independent distribution with Ground Swell did extend out a bit to the rest of the country. But I think being affiliated with a major label really validates the project to a great extent, in the eyes of retail and probably with the media as well."

The deal between Warner and Ground Swell is essentially a developmental deal for the indie. Warner has committed to aiding the label, financially and otherwise, in developing not only their current roster of artists, particularly Rawlins Cross, but also



in searching out and developing potential new artists. "Our mandate at Ground Swell continues to be very squarely in developing artists in the Atlantic region. For most of the artists on the label, we're also providing management services. So the commitment to us has been a financial one, as well as commitments to manufacturing, distribution and marketing.

"Initially, when we negotiated the deal, I was optimistically thinking that we could release 14 albums under the full, enhanced marketing deal with Warner. But what we've realized is that there isn't 14 records here in the region that are really in a position to take advantage of the Warner deal. We don't want to waste Warner's resources, we want to take artists through this deal that we feel strongly about, that we feel have potential. So as a result, I expect the number to be about eight to ten recordings at the end of the two year deal."

Because of the success of the Rankins, Barras and others, a strong preconception of the Atlantic music scene has developed to some extent, with many casual music fans believing that every artist from the Maritimes plays celtic music. But MacKinnon says that it's far from the truth.

"There's a very healthy music scene down here. There's a wonderful jazz scene, there's a blues scene with people like Dutch Mason and Matt Minglewood, and of course the alternative scene

here has been very strong, with bands like Sloan, Thrush Hermit and Eric's Trip. And of course there are all the celtic-based artists, which is a group I guess you could put Rawlins Cross in. So it is a diverse scene, and a very cooperative one as well, there's a very healthy respect for each other's genres, and everyone kind of supports one another."

Looking now at the successful artists that have come from the region, one tends to look back and wonder why it took the major labels so long to discover the east coast as a hotbed of musical talent. But MacKinnon believes it's simply a case of things coming full circle.

"I think the time had come, really. What's been building, along with interest, is the music industry here. There are a lot of very solid management companies and record labels. There are recording studios and producers here, there's a whole business structure that's now in place that can support the artists. And everyone has been refining their own presentation, putting more money into the recordings, and feeling more comfortable spending money on recordings, because they know they will sell. So I think the growth has been there, and I think the major label interest came along with that, it was time. And there were a number of artists that developed independently, and I think Rawlins Cross was one of those, to the point where we were able to gain the interest of the major labels.

"Before we signed the deal with Warner, Rawlins Cross had sold about 50,000 copies of our first three recordings independently. So from a strictly business point of view where Warner's concerned, they obviously saw something here they could make money from. Which for us is fine, because we'll make money as well."

As part of the East Coast Music Association executive, MacKinnon has witnessed the growth of the organization and the awards show into one of the more popular events on the Canadian music industry calendar. He feels the development of the ECMA awards went hand-in-hand with the emergence of the talent from the Atlantic provinces.

"That's been a very important aspect of the whole growth of the industry here. It's kind of the annual cheering session, a chance for the whole industry to pat itself on the back for the job that we're doing collectively. But it also provides a very

CROSS continued on page 15

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New Releases



BURTON CUMMINGS -Pop
Up Close And Alone
 MCA-81010-J

It seems like we've been seeing Mr. Cummings just about everywhere and anywhere in the past few months, including his stint as host of the Hall of Fame Gala this past March, and as a presenter at the Junos. But reemergence of Cummings is in part to help the folks remember who this guy was, and in part to help promote his latest venture, which in many ways marks a rebirth of the former Guess Who vocalist. *Up Close And Alone* is just that, Cummings and piano, and a litany of the songs that made him famous, both with the Guess Who and as a solo act. It's easy to forget now, but before the likes of Adams, Cochrane and others arrived on the scene, Cummings was perhaps the most recognizable male voice in the Canadian musical maelstrom. In some ways, his screaming, howling rendition of *American Woman* led the way for Adams et al, undercutting that stubborn Canadian sobriety and showing the world that we can rock and roll as raucous as anybody. For this effort, the guitars and drums have been stripped away, revealing just Cummings and his piano. It works well with some songs (*Stand Tall*, *Break It To Them Gently*, *Dream Of A Child*), and not so well with others (*Albert Flasher*, *Clap For The Wolfman*), but what really stands out is that, unlike other aging rockers, Cummings still has the pipes. A worthy collection for the Guess Who fans out there, and a nice retrospective on Canadian musical history. -RR

SONGS IN THE KEY OF X -Pop/Rock
 Various Artists
 Warner Bros-46079-P

If the truth was really out there, we wouldn't need the X Files, right? But as millions of this show's fans will tell you, a little bit more of the truth is uncovered each week on this fascinating TV show that rose from cult fave



to cross-the-board hit. Now, Warner Bros. is attempting to catch hold of the popularity wave by releasing this 15-track CD dubbed 'Music From And Inspired By The X Files', which we guess means that exec. producers Don Was and Cris Carter (the genius behind the show) pulled together the show's theme song, a bunch of other things that popped up on the show, and anything else that sounded eclectic enough to match the show's rather alien themes (sorry). The CD runs the gamut, from the poppish sounds of Sheryl Crow (*On The Outside*), to the alternative strains of Foo Fighters (*Down In The Park*), up to the danceable style of PM Dawn (*If You Never Say Goodbye*). Even with all that thrown in, our fave is still the X Files theme, penned and performed by Mark Snow. Listen to that a few times, and then try and sleep with your feet hanging over the end of the bed. -RR

MGB -Rock/Alternative
Last Of The Ghetto Astronauts
 Dunharrow - MGB 290671-F

Having signed a deal once upon a yesteryear with that Mecca of indie signings EMI Music Publishing, MGB promptly broke up for reasons not explicitly stated in their bio. They were to reincarnate two years later, in their present form, to independently release *Last of the Ghetto Astronauts*. Already the album has shown strong radio and video support



for the opening track and current single, *Alabama Hotel Room*. Twenty two year old Matthew Good (after whom the band is named) has been extremely prolific during his time as an as-yet-undiscovered artist, and the work has obviously honed his skills. With lyrical content that startles with its penetrating insight and a starkly passionate delivery, Good calls to mind a troubled Gord Downie from ten years back. Lyrically and musically, Good manages to communicate a wealth in these ten crisp snapshots, several of which could yield great returns on maximum exposure (ie. *Symbolistic White Walls*, *The War Is Over*). -RG



LOVE AND ROCKETS -Alternative
Sweet FA.

Beggars Banquet 76974 2082-O
 Love and Rockets are back with their latest release following 1994's startling *Hot Trip To Heaven*, where the lads decided to go *Tangerine Dream* all of a sudden. Not that it didn't work - on the contrary, that album had surprising staying power even though that success did not adequately translate to radio and retail figures (at least, not of the kind that rivalled their earlier *Ball Of Confusion*). As fortune would have it, *Sweet FA.* seems to be yet another transition - a transition back

this time, with the keyboards and drum loops traded in for the guitars and drums we remember Love and Rockets for. The tempo of the album is still lethargic, however, even fragile at times (like *Fever*, *Judgement Day* and the title track, all of which might be a little too quiet for live shows). You might have heard *Sweet Lover Hangover* on alternative radio where it's doing surprisingly well and being backed up by strong chart positioning. It's an apt choice for a single: the guitar is recognizably Love and Rockets while the rest of it is indicative enough of the kind of sound pursued on the album. Keep an eye on this one, we think it has the goods to reclaim territory lost by their previous. -RG



LONESTAR -Country
Self-titled
 BNA-66642-N

This Texas quintet broke quietly in Canada with their debut single, *Tequila Talkin'*, which went Top 15 (#11 - RPM Country 100 - Dec. 11/95). That success opened the door for the follow-up, *No News*, to rapidly gain country programmer favour in Canada (#1 - April 1/96). The band is made up of two lead singers, John Rich (bass guitar) and Richie McDonald (acoustic guitar, keys), Michael Britt (electric and acoustic guitars), Dean Sams (acoustic guitar, mouth harp, keys) and Keech Rainwater (drums). There is an obvious emphasis on the acoustic sound which gives their vocals yet another dimension, and which also stresses the quality of the harmonies. Although the band is mainstream country, they haven't forgotten their traditional Texas roots, particularly on *Heartbroke Every Day*, which was written by Bill LaBounty, Cam King and Rick Vincent, and *Billy Lawson's Ragtop Cadillac*, a little left-field, but a powerful number. But don't overlook the McDonald/Kyle penning of *When Cowboy's Didn't Dance*. The message will attract big time. Produced by Don Cook and Wally Wilson. -WG



PAUL BRANDT -Country
Calm Before The Storm
 Reprise-46180-P

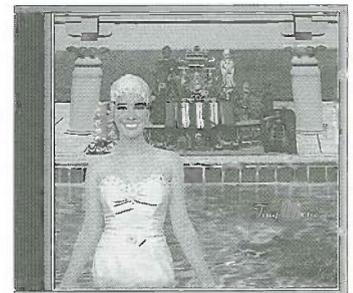
Like the country pundits said, "the proof is in the pudding," and this is it. This Calgarian, now living in Nashville, where he has turned a few heads on Music Row, is happening on both sides of the border with his initial single release, *My Heart Has A History*. The song was co-written by Brandt and Mark Sanders, a Nashville writer. It appears Brandt has run the full gamut of his country paramenters here. Ballads, Western, and flat-out country. Every track shows a potentially powerful singer/songwriter who knows where he's going and he doesn't disguise his country roots. Brandt has a natural baritone vocal that has the purity of a graduate choir boy. He's not in a hurry with his lyrics and layers them on with a precision that's usually only mastered by the trained voice. He's got some hurtin' here as well, which adds to the tremendous vocal property he possesses. How Brandt happened is now common knowledge. What's here is much more important. He's done it right. He's got a commitment from a major US label and the excitement at the label level in Canada is absolutely refreshing. A pumped-up marketing and promotion team can make all the difference. What's key? There isn't a track here that couldn't stand alone. Suffice to say, the album is six singles deep. Brandt has cozied up to some great Nashville writers; *Pass Me By* (if you're Only Passing Through) by Hillman Hall, *Take It From Me* by Brandt and Roy Hurd, Brandt's solo penning of *I Do*, and *On The Inside* by Brett Jones. Produced by Josh Leo and recorded in Nashville. -WG

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ALBUM PICK

STONE TEMPLE PILOTS -Rock/Alternative
Tiny Music... Songs From the Vatican Gift Shop
 Atlantic 82871-P

Pop's Love Suicide, *Tumble In the Rough*, *Trippin' On a Hole in a Paper Heart...* with series of kick ass tunes like that in quick succession there isn't a lot to argue about STP's much awaited new release. First Single *Big Bang Baby* is already burning up the charts and dominating alternative playlists across the country proving that it's payback time after all of the critical abuse these guys took on the surprise success of *Purple*. Strangely enough, the musical formula has no mystery about it: a throbbing southern groove and rugged vocals singing about the whole dusty desert in a few stylised phrases. Originality was never so much this band's strength, but their love for the rock'n'roll treadmill and the eagerness with which they engage in its mechanic is unusual. Soft touches on *Adhesive*, *And So I Know* and a tune called *Art School Girl* that might be *Tripping Daisy's I Got A Girl* on bad acid, will only expand/delight already growing audiences. It will be a while before the excitement over the album will die down enough for another act will topple this Stone Temple. By all accounts an exceptional release. -RG



RADIO

Three Canadian broadcasting organizations are combining their efforts to host a massive convention and media expo on October 27-29 in Edmonton. Broadcasting '96 will combine the resources of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB), the Radio Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) and the Western Association of Broadcast Engineers (WABE). Running concurrently with separate programs, the conventions will focus on the National Broadcasting & Media Expo, and share cross-over sessions and social functions. Broadcasting '96 executive director Sharon Orr says a preliminary CAB agenda will be released shortly. CAB convention planning committee co-chairs are Fred Filthaut (CFRN-TV, Edmonton), and Doug Rutherford (CHED, Edmonton).

Victoria's C-FAX 1070 has awarded \$30,000 in special public service grants to five local organizations. The grants are to be used for on-air advertising, or any other creative services offered by the station. The recipients included Victoria's Epilepsy & Parkinson's Centre, the Belfrey Theatre Restoration Program, the Victoria Cool Aid Society, the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre and Meals On Wheels. The grants are made each year in connection with the C-FAX community awards, which recognize outstanding contributions to the community by individuals and groups. The \$30,000 awarded this year brings the total awarded thus far to \$325,000.

Saskatoon's CJWW 600 made history in March when they became the first Saskatchewan station to debut on the worldwide web. The site, which includes CJWW personalities, programming features, artists, music info and more, is accessible at

WWW.Sasknet.com/CJWW/

You can also e-mail the station at CJWW.radio@sasknet.sk.ca

The station also announced that Eldon Duchscher is now news director.

The Philosopher Kings can thank Windsor's The River 93.9 FM for helping them sell a few more CDs. According to Kid Leo of Sony Music's New York office, 11% of the band's product sales are from the Detroit area, with only New York accounting for more of the band's US sales than Detroit. Says Leo, "Everything is attributable to the airplay from The River. They're the driving force in the market for sales of the band's CDs and concert tickets."

CHUM Ltd. and Nuvo Network Management have teamed to launch World Wide Web Broadcasting (3WB), which will provide commercial Internet audio services. 3WB will create and operate 'radio stations' on the 'net, which will broadcast info on behalf of their clients. As well, 3WB is teaming with Bell to create new Canadian internet services for distribution on the world wide web.

KIK-FM Calgary has been transformed into Rock 107 - The New Kik, under the auspices of program director Wes Erickson. The show will now have a new pair of morning hosts, Roger Rhodes (formerly of Calgary's CJAY) and Spyder O'Neill (formerly of MIX 1060, Calgary).

The CANPRO Festival, a showcase for the best in private television production and promotion in Canada, will have the able assistance of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters in bringing a higher profile to the annual event. Launched in 1973, CANPRO recognizes excellence in Canadian television production and promotion, drawing participation from private TV programmers and promotion personnel, specialty and Pay-TV services, and private producers. Notes CANPRO national chair Jerry MacLeod, "We're looking forward to the benefits of this exciting new partnership at next year's CANPRO, April 5-8 in Toronto." The 1996 festival recently took place in Victoria. CANPRO will retain its identity, but will draw on the experience of the CAB staff.

Q107 in Toronto has raised a few eyebrows by making a moderate format shift, eschewing some of its classic spins for more of a modern rock slant. According to the Q's Danny Kingsbury, "In terms of currents versus gold, there's definitely been a shift to more current in the last month or so. And yes, we're definitely saying that we're playing new rock. I think the market continues to change, and as the market changes, stations have to evolve accordingly. We definitely didn't want to be a sitting target, and sometimes we have to go on a more offensive position." When asked about going head to head with modern rock mainstays 102.1 The Edge (CFNY-FM), who have touted the alternative flag for many years, Kingsbury responded "maybe the better question is, who sounds more like who? That's probably a better question, who has changed more over the past couple months to sound like the other station?" With both CFNY and Q107 battling it out on the rock turf, that could leave open some space for other Toronto stations to pick up some of the classic slack, although MIX 99.9 PD J.J. Johnston doesn't foresee any changes at his end. "It sounds like Q107 is making moves to reclaim their rock throne, and it should be an interesting battle between those two. We're positioned between Q107, CFNY and CHUM-FM, and I don't play a lot of AOR stuff, so it's not really going to change our direction." Apparently, the Q tried a similar change in direction in the fall of 1994, veering then into a modern rock direction. But when the spring books came out, a bit of panic set in and the station immediately went back to the comfortable confines of classic rock. Rumour also has it that the Q107 head honchos are none too pleased with the fact that many of their staffers frequently have their own radio dials set to 102.1. Stay tuned.

RPM ALTERNATIVE

Canada's only national weekly alternative chart

TW LW WO - APRIL 8, 1996

Rank	TW	LW	WO	Artist	Album
1	2	4		BIG BANG BABY Stone Temple Pilots - Tiny Music and Songs From... Atlantic 82871-P	
2	1	12		AEROPLANE Red Hot Chili Peppers - One Hot Minute Warner Bros. 45733-P	
3	3	11		IRONIC Alanis Morissette - Jagged Little Pill Maverick 45901 (promo CD)-P	
4	11	4		CHAMPAGNE SUPERNOVA Oasis - (What's The Story) Morning Glory? Epic 67351 (promo CD)-H	
5	5	9		BIG ME Foo Fighters - Foo Fighters Roswell 724 383 4027 (promo CD)-F	
6	4	18		1979 Smashing Pumpkins - Mellon Collie And The Infinite... Virgin 40861-F	
7	6	10		ZERO Smashing Pumpkins - Mellon Collie And The Infinite... Virgin 40861-F	
8	7	18		WONDERWALL Oasis - (What's The Story) Morning Glory? Epic 67351 (promo CD)-H	
9	9	10		PEACHES The Presidents of the United States of America - S/T Columbia 67291 (promo CD)-H	
10	10	12		IN THE MEANTIME Spacehog - Resident Alien Sire 61834 (comp 271)-P	
11	8	7		LAY LADY LAY Ministry - Fifth Pig Warner Bros. 45838-P	
12	12	5		CALIFORNIA Rusty - Fluke Handsome Boy 0003 (promo CD)-N	
13	16	3		WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO? Stabbing Westward - Wither Blister Burn + Peel Columbia 66152 (promo CD)-H	
14	20	3		MACHINEHEAD Bush X - Sixteen Stone Interscope 96531-P	
15	13	19		SANTA MONICA (Watch The World Die) Everclear - Sparkle And Fade Capitol 30929 (comp 28)-F	
16	14	11		NAKED Goo Goo Dolls - A Boy Named Goo Warner 45750-P	
17	22	3		A COMMON DISASTER Cowboy Junkies - Lay It Down Geffen 24952 (comp 3)-J	
18	24	2		BULLS ON PARADE Rage Against the Machine - Bulls On Parade Epic 662990-H	
19	23	3		SWEET LOVER HANGOVER Love and Rockets - Sweet F. A. Beggars Banquet 769 742 082 (comp 447)-Q	
20	18	5		SISTER Nixons - Foma MCA 11209 (comp 2)-J	
21	25	2		I HATE MY GENERATION Cracker - The Golden Age Virgin 41498-F	
22	15	8		HIGH & DRY Radiohead - The Bends EMI 29626-F	
23	29	2		INCARNATE The Watchmen - Brand New Day Boneyard Tunes 81009 (promo CD)-J	
24	27	2		WATER'S EDGE 7 Mary 3 - American Standard Mammoth MR 129-J	
25	17	10		ONLY HAPPY WHEN IT RAINS Garbage - Garbage Almo Sounds 80004-J	
26	19	13		BRAIN STEW Green Day - Insomniac Reprise 46046 (comp 272)-P	
27	NEW			SALVATION The Cranberries - To The Faithful Departed Island 314 524 234-Q	
28	21	4		CAUGHT A LITE SNEEZE Tori Amos - Boys For Pele Atlantic 82862 (promo CD)-P	
29	NEW			SPACEMAN Babylon Zoo - The Boy With the X-Ray Eyes EMI 367204 (promo CD)-F	
30	NEW			PICK UP THE PHONE Son - Thriller WEA 14076 (promo CD)-P	

COUNTRY

Shania Twain has another #1 with her latest Mercury release, *You Win My Love*. The lack of Cancon on this record didn't seem to matter. Canadian country programmers were ahead of their US counterparts in giving this release full support. US trades however, are very close behind. Watch for a #1 down there next week.

Paul Brandt is closing in on the top of the chart with *My Heart Has A History*, jumping into the #5 slot from #12 after only 5 weeks of charting. Now that Brandt's album is at retail and the support he is getting at radio, he is almost guaranteed to have one of the big selling albums this year. US country programmers have also caught on to this Calgarian and he is now making rapid gains up the US trade charts.

David Lee Murphy has the big gainer this week with *Everytime I Get Around You*, his latest MCA release, banging up to #45 from #88. A Murphy original, this is the follow-up to *Out With A Bang*, which is now coming down the chart (#69). The new single is included on his upcoming album, *Gettin' Out The Good Stuff*.

Thomas Wade and Wayward get the nod with the most added single this week. Their lushly-packaged debut, *Sittin' Pretty*, written by Wade and Tim Taylor, enters the chart at #78. Bill Carruthers' JMR label is the thrust behind this bright new

Cancon band (RPM - April 1/96).

MCA's Ed Harris is looking for a strong second quarter with new albums from Vince Gill and George Strait. Also expected to contribute to this success are sophomore albums from David Lee Murphy and Rhett Akins, as well as a new release from hillbilly rocker Marty Stuart. Says Harris, "Gill's album, *Souvenirs*, is well on its way to double platinum and Strait is coming off the biggest single in his career, and a best-selling box set. Marty Stuart has a gold base, and Murphy's album is almost platinum and Rhett Akins is poised to break open nationally. So, needless to say, we are genuinely excited about schedule." Murphy's new release, *Everytime I Get Around You*, is the biggest gainer this week, bulleting up to #45 from #88. The track was taken from his upcoming album, *Gettin' Out The Good Stuff*. The album, produced by Tony Brown, is due in stores on May 22. Murphy's current CD, *Out With A Band*, yielded three major hits, the title track, *Party Crowd* and *Dust On The Bottle*. Strait isn't looking too shabby either. *Blue Clear Sky*, written by Mark Sanders, entered the RPM Country 100 last week at #95, but this week jumps up to #57, an indication that Strait could have one of the biggest hits of his career. This is the title track of his new album, which will be in stores on April 24. Strait produced the album with Tony Brown.

This is his first studio album since the release of *Strait Out Of The Box*, the four-CD retrospective that is already triple platinum in the US and has been charting on the RPM albums chart for 26 weeks. Vince Gill's new release, *High Lonesome Sound*, the title track of his upcoming album (in stores May 29), enters the chart at #85 and is expected to move up quickly. This is his seventh release for MCA and all have gone platinum in Canada with *I Still Believe In You* now triple platinum. Stuart's new album, *I Honky Tonkin's What Do Best*, reunites him with duet partner Travis Tritt on the title track, which is now at radio. The last duet the pair released was *This One's Gonna Hurt You*, the title track of Stuart's most successful Canadian release to date. The album surpassed platinum sales.

Darryl Singer, a Toronto lawyer, is heading up *Liquid Country*, a country label recently launched by Bob Luhtala, who heads up *Liquid Records*, a rock independent. Singer will run the day-to-day operations of the new label, but admits that while it will be tough going to establish an independent label, "having the experience of the *Liquid* office to advise us at each step gives us the tremendous advantage over our competition." Says Singer, the new label is looking for country acts "with an edge." The first signing is *Laura Mattson*, whose debut single goes to radio in Canada and

COUNTRY PICKERS

JAY HITCHEN

CHAT - Medicine Hat
Time Marches On - Tracy Lawrence

WADE WILLEY

CKRM - Regina
Time Marches On - Tracy Lawrence

GARTH STONE

MX 92.1 FM - Regina
High Lonesome Road - Vince Gill

PHIL KALLSEN

CKRY-FM - Calgary
High Lonesome Sound - Vince Gill

RAY BERGSTROM

CFMK-FM - Kingston
Blue Clear Sky - George Strait

KENT MATHESON

CFQM-FM - Moncton
Treat Her Right - Sawyer Brown

RICK FLEMING

CKQM-FM - Peterborough
Steady As She Goes - James Owen Bush

JANET TRECARTEN

CISS-FM - Toronto
My Maria - Brooks & Dunn

BRUCE LEPERRE

CKDM - Dauphin
My Maria - Brooks & Dunn

FRANK McGWIRE

KIX - Brandon
My Maria - Brooks & Dunn

CHUCK REYNOLDS

CHYR - Leamington
My Maria - Brooks & Dunn

STEVE JONES

KIXX - Thunder Bay
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Europe later this month. An album will follow in September.

Reggae Cowboys have a Bamboo date for April 27. The band will be playing Toronto's Queen Street bar as a benefit for Youth Challenge International. The band's album, *To Tell The Truth*, released on the Tumbleweed label, is available through International Music Distribution (RPM New Releases - Jan 15/96). The album will be for sale at the gig and all profits from the CD sales for that particular night will go to Youth Challenge International, a non-profit, charitable organization fostering youth and global development by involving Canadian and international youth in community development projects in Guyana and Costa Rica. Ticket sales will also go to the charity. The band comprises lead vocalist/guitarist Bird "Stone Ranger" Bellony, lead vocalist/rhythm guitarist Aljeron Delano "Click Master Sync" Rabess, bassist Roy "Gulley" Clark, keyboardist/background vocalist Richard "Marshall" Brooks and drummer Donovan "Bounty Don" Stines.

Larry Lee and his band *Straight Clean & Simple*, have released a new album entitled *The Dead Horse Lake Album*. The album has been shipped to 160 country stations in Canada and 210 throughout Europe. Although the album won't be at radio until the first part of May, it has already spawned seven releases, four of which kicked in impressive chart action. These were *Hillbilly Jane*, *Country Junkie*, *Midnight Special* and *Till The River Runs Dry*. Heavy emphasis will be placed on three new tracks, *She Means The World To Me*, *Closest Thing To Heaven* and *Better Side Of Me*. Larry Lee says he and the band are having one of their best years ever

Neilsons video nominated for WorldFest award

Windows To The Past, the country video by The Neilsons, has been nominated for a WorldFest Houston Video Award.

There were only four nominees in the particular category the Ontario-based band was nominated in. They have been assured of winning either a gold, silver, bronze or finalist award, or perhaps even a gold special jury award or the grand award.

The award presentation will take place in Houston, Texas during the 29th WorldFest which runs from April 12 through 21.

The Neilsons first burst onto the scene with an eye-catching and very expensive promotion package that contained their first single, *Windows To The Past*, and self-titled CD. The debut single was written by Ron, the father and his 18-year old daughter Tami. Both dad and daughter sing lead vocals and play guitars. The other members of the family are mother, Betty (vocals), and sons, 17-year old Jay (bass, vocals), and 12-year old Todd (drums).

Interesting enough, the video of the single was given the nod by NCN and ZTV the first of the year. The promotion-minded family took advantage of their video rotation and bumped it up with an advertising campaign of 60 and 30 second commercials over January and February of this year.

The single entered the RPM Country 100 at #94 on Jan. 29/96 and has climbed steadily where this week it moves into the #29 slot.

A new single, *We'll Hold On*, is being readied as the follow-up to *Windows To The Past*. The album was produced by the elder Neilson and Marinus Vandertogt. The album was recorded at Orchard Studio.

as a performing group. Upcoming dates include the Salmon Valley Music Festival in BC, the Dawson City Music Festival in the Yukon, Western Stock Growers 100th Cattle Drive in Alberta, the Calgary Stampede and rodeos and special events across Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC. A European tour is also in the planning stages for this fall. The album can be ordered by calling toll free 1-800-510-1631.

Westwood International, based in Nashville, has released a 15-track CD compilation entitled *Nashville Showcase, Volume One 1996*. Included are four Cancon tracks. Cindy Lee, a young singer from Edmonton, is featured with *The Girl Just Loves To Dance*, a song written by Sharon Anderson and Cameron Molloy. She is currently working on her debut album with producers Dennis Charney and Gerry Dere. Brent McAthey duets with veteran Dick Damron on *As Far As I Can See*, both of whom wrote the song. This track was taken from McAthey's album, *Waitin' For The Sun*. Doug Beal is featured on *Arizona Two Step*, a Beal original, which he produced with Donivan Cowart. Tara Lyn Mohr, a 17-year old who makes her home in Roblin,

Manitoba, makes her bid for the charts with *Nothin' Like A Dream*, a song she co-wrote with Lonnie Ratliff, who produced the track with Vaughn Lofstead. Interesting enough, McAthey has another track on the compilation, *Redneck Rock 'N Roll*, which is also included on his album, *Waitin' For The Sun*. The song was written by Jerry "Pork" Armstrong and Ron Stockert. McAthey produced the track with Lonnie Ratliff. Recording took place in Nashville. The compilation is available in Canada through 1-800-Joe Radio.

Geordie Barnett dropped by the office to preview his four-song CD release which he titled *The Radio Singles*. Making his home in McIntyre, Ontario, Barnett had his own band at age 16 and began building a loyal following of country fans. After high school, he earned a degree in Radio and Television Broadcasting from Toronto's Seneca College, supporting himself and his schooling by playing club dates at nights. He went on to start a music program at the University of Waterloo, all

COUNTRY continued on page 15

RPM		COUNTRY ALBUMS	
TW	LW	WO	APRIL 8, 1996
1	1	19	GARTH BROOKS Fresh Horses Capitol-32080-F
2	2	60	SHANIA TWAIN The Woman In Me Mercury-314-522-886-Q
3	3	11	ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL The Wheel Keeps On Rollin' Capitol/EMI-31280-F
4	4	30	THE MAVERICKS Music For All Occasions MCA-11257-J
5	9	7	TRACY LAWRENCE Time Marches On Atlantic-82856-P
6	5	43	JASON MCCOY Self-titled MCA-11290-J
7	6	59	SUSAN AGLUKARK This Child EMI-32075-F
8	12	21	ALAN JACKSON The Greatest Hits Collection Arista-07822-18001-N
9	14	22	TRAVIS TRITT Greatest Hits From The Beginning Warner Bros-46001-P
10	8	33	TERRI CLARK Terri Clark Mercury Nashville-26991-Q
11	7	7	WYNONNA Revelations MCA-11090-J
12	13	20	STOMPIN' TOM CONNORS Long Gone To The Yukon EMI-7243-835298-F
13	10	23	MARTINA MCBRIDE Wild Angels RCA-7863-66509-N
14	11	26	CHARLIE MAJOR Lucky Man Arista-74321-30728-N
15	19	7	LONESTAR Lonestar BNA/BMG-66642-N
16	16	32	FAITH HILL It Matters To Me Warner Bros-45872-P
17	24	25	BLACKHAWK Strong Enough Arista-07822-18792-N
18	15	21	DWIGHT YOAKAM Gone Reprise-46051-P
19	20	4	LISA BROKOP Self-titled EMI-33875-F
20	17	32	THE RANKIN FAMILY Endless Seasons EMI-7243-832348-F
21	23	4	RICKY SKAGGS Solid Ground Atlantic-82823-P
22	18	6	PATTY LOVELESS The Trouble With The Truth Epic-67269-H
23	21	25	JEFF FOXWORTHY Games Rednecks Play Warner Bros-45856-P
24	25	13	DAVID LEE MURPHY Out With A Bang MCA-11044-J
25	22	10	NOT FADE AWAY Remembering Buddy Holly - Various Artists Decca/MCA-11260-J
26	31	31	DOLLY PARTON Something Special Columbia/Blue Eye-67140-H
27	29	24	REBA MCENTIRE Starting Over MCA-11264-J
28	28	4	MANDY BARNETT Mandy Barnett Asylum-61810-P
29	NEW		NEIL DIAMOND Tennessee Moon Columbia-67382-H
30	26	12	BLUE RODEO Nowhere To Here WEA-10617-P
31	27	13	PAM TILLIS All Of This Love Arista-07822-18799-N
32	30	32	COLLIN RAYE I Think About You Epic-67033-H
33	32	24	GEORGE STRAIT Strait Out Of The Box MCA-11263-J
34	36	30	TIM MCGRAW All I Want Curb-EMI-77800-F
35	37	20	MARK CHESNUTT Wings Decca/MCA-11261-J
36	33	4	DOUG SUPERNAW You Still Got Me Giant-24639-P
37	34	14	JOE DIFFIE Life's So Funny Epic-67405-H
38	35	17	VINCE GILL Souvenirs MCA-11394-J
39	39	22	VARIOUS ARTISTS Kickin' Country 3 Sony Music-24019-H
40	40	21	UNTAMED AND TRUE 2 Various Artists MCA-11218-J

RPM Adult Contemporary TRACKS

Record Distributor Code:

BMG - N EMI - F MCA - J Polygram - Q Sony - H Warner - P

TW LW WO APRIL 8, 1996

1	1	9	BECAUSE YOU LOVED ME Celine Dion - Falling Into You 550 Music/Epic-7692 (pro single)-H	21	26	7	OH VIRGINIA Blessid Union Of Souls - Home EMI-31836 (CD track)-F	41	45	4	DARLING PRETTY Mark Knopfler - Golden Heart Mercury-314-514-732 (comp 447)-Q
2	5	3	NOBODY KNOWS The Tony Rich Project - Words La Face-26022 (pro single)-N	22	23	7	SOME BRIDGES Jackson Browne - Looking East Elektra-61867 (comp 275)-P	42	34	18	ENOUGH LOVE Kim Stockwood - Bonavista EMI-32479 (EP track)-F
3	2	13	MISSING Everything But The Girl - Massive Dance Hits WEA-33938 (comp 269)-P	23	11	6	LOVE WON'T FIND US HERE Maë Moore - Dragonfly Columbia-80222 (comp 047)-H	43	44	18	A LOVE SO BEAUTIFUL Michael Bolton - Greatest Hits 1985 - 1995 Columbia-67300-H
4	3	14	JESUS TO A CHILD George Michael - No album Dreamworks (pro single)-J	24	25	9	PRAY Take That - Nobody Else Arista-18800 (pro single)-N	44	52	2	LIGHT IN YOUR HEART Martin Page - In The Heart Of Stone And Light Mercury-522-1042 (comp 046)-Q
5	4	11	BIRMINGHAM Amanda Marshall - Self-titled Columbia-80229 (pro single)-H	25	27	5	LUCKY LOVE Ace Of Base - The Bridge Arista 17822 (comp 2)-N	45	54	3	JUNE AFTERNOON Roxette - Don't Bore Us, Get To The Chorus EMI 35466 (comp 4)-F
6	6	8	THIS IS THE STUFF Carolyn Arends - I Can Hear You RCA-08060-83737 (comp 1)-N	26	12	11	WHO DO U LOVE Deborah Cox - Self-titled Arista-07822-18781-N	46	36	12	PROMISES BROKEN Soul Asylum - Let Your Dim Light Shine Columbia-67616 (comp 046)-H
7	7	10	HEROINE Wild Strawberries - Heroine Netwerk-3099 (CD track)-F	27	28	6	I CRY Bass Is Base - Memories of the Soulshack ... A&M-31454-0398 (CD track)-Q	47	NEW		ALWAYS BE MY BABY Mariah Carey - Daydream Columbia-66700 (pro single)-H
8	15	6	LET YOUR SOUL BE YOUR PILOT Sting - Mercury Falling A&M-31454-0483 (comp 2)-Q	28	29	6	YOU'RE OK k.d.lang - All You Can Eat Warner Bros-46034 (comp 275)-P	48	43	17	WILDEST DREAMS Tom Cochrane - Ragged Ass Road EMI-32951 (comp 39)-F
9	14	11	ONE OF US Joan Osborne - Relish Mercury-314 526 699 (pro single)-Q	29	30	6	A COMMON DISASTER Cowboy Junkies - Lay It Down Geffen-24952 (pro single)-J	49	40	22	EXHALE (Shoop Shoop) Whitney Houston - Waiting To Exhale OST Arista-07822 18796 (pro single)-N
10	8	12	FAITHFULLY Peter Cetera - One Clear Voice Mercury-769742 (comp 432)-Q	30	35	4	SHOE BOX Barenaked Ladies - Born On A Pirate Ship Reprise-46183 (comp 279)-P	50	51	4	THE BALLAD OF LUCY JORDAN The Barra MacNeils - The Question Polydor-314-529-0772 (comp 447)-Q
11	13	6	PLEASE Elton John - Made In England Rocket/Mercury-314-526-185 (CD track)-Q	31	21	10	WONDER Natalie Merchant - Tigerlily Elektra-61745 (pro single)-P	51	57	2	DROWNING IN YOUR TEARS The Rembrandts - L.P. EastWest-61752 (comp 275)-P
12	17	3	COUNT ON ME Whitney Houston - Waiting To Exhale O.S.T. Arista-18796 (comp 2)-N	32	38	3	DON'T WANNA LOSE YOU Lionel Richie - Louder Than Words Mercury (comp 447)-Q	52	53	16	SLEEPY MAGGIE Ashley MacIsaac - Hi, How Are You Today? A&M-79602-2001 (CD track)-Q
13	20	8	DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE Amy Sky - Cool Rain Iron Music-77876-51005 (pro single)-N	33	39	7	LAURA Lawrence Gowan - The Good Catches Up Select-1100 (CD track)	53	NEW		CLOSER TO FREE Bodans - Joe Dirt Car Slash/Reprise-45945 (comp 272)-P
14	9	14	SO FAR AWAY Rod Stewart - Tapestry Revisited/Carole King Lava/Warner-92604 (comp 269)-P	34	41	5	THE RIGHT TIME The Corrs - Forgiveness, Not Forgotten Lava-143 (comp 277)-P	54	55	2	FAST AS I CAN Great Big Sea - Up WEA-12277-P
15	19	6	IRONIC Alanis Morissette - Jagged Little Pill A&M-314-540-399 (comp 1)-Q	35	42	4	ONLY LOVE Sophie B. Hawkins - Whaler Columbia-63300 (comp 046)-H	55	50	14	BETTER OFF AS WE ARE Blue Rodeo - Nowhere To Here WEA-10617 (comp 267)-P
16	10	18	TIME Hootie & The Blowfish - Cracked Rear View Atlantic-82613 (comp 269)-P	36	33	22	YOU'LL SEE Madonna - Something To Remember Maverick/Warner Bros-46100 (pro single)-P	56	48	17	THE RIVER The Rankin Family - Endless Seasons EMI-832348 (pro single)-F
17	18	7	STARBUDD ROAD Megan Metcalfe - Megan Metcalfe EMI-36900 (pro single)-F	37	49	2	A BOY LIKE THAT Selena - The Songs Of West Side Story RCA-52707 (pro single)-N	57	59	2	A LIST OF THINGS Dannan Doyle - Shadows Wake Me Latitude-50422 (comp 4)-F
18	22	5	MAKE IT UP AS YOU GO Hemingway Corner - Under The Big Sky Epic-80218 (CD track)-H	38	47	2	REACH Gloria Estefan - Destiny Epic-67283-H	58	NEW		THE LONG WAY HOME Rawlins Cross - Living River Ground Swell/Warner-13666 (comp 278)-P
19	24	6	THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Amy Grant - Mr. Wrong Soundtrack Hollywood-62041 (comp 2)-Q	39	32	5	REAL LOVE The Beatles - Beatles Anthology 1 Apple/Capitol-34445 (pro single)-F	59	56	19	(You . . .) LIKE A NATURAL WOMAN Celine Dion - Tapestry Revisited/Carole King Lava/Warner-92604 (CD track)-P
20	16	13	DON'T CRY Seal - Seal ZTI/WEA UK-74557 (comp 270)-P	40	31	8	SOMEWHERE Phil Collins - Songs Of West Side Story RCA-09026-62702 (CD track)-N	60	58	18	DREAMING OF YOU Selena - The track EMI-34123 (comp 28)-F

RPM Dance

TW LW WO - APRIL 8, 1996

1	1	6	CALIFORNIA LOVE 2 Pac A&M-Q	11	8	12	DUB-I-DUB Me & My EMI-F	21	29	2	GOT MYSELF TOGETHER The Buckleheads Atlantic-P
2	5	5	FEELS SO GOOD Lina Santiago Universal-J	12	19	3	MOVIN' UP Dreamworld RCA-N	22	NEW		DISCO'S REVENGE Gusto Hi-Bias-Q
3	3	8	LOVE IS PARADISE First Base Ariola-N	13	17	3	LUV ME Hector Dance Pool-H	23	13	8	FREEDOM Black Magic Quality
4	4	10	SHUT UP (And Sleep With Me) Sin w/ Sebastian BMG-N	14	27	2	SET U FREE Planet Soul Quality	24	18	12	SEXUAL HEALING Max-A-Million Arista-N
5	2	7	LUCKY LOVE Ace Of Base Arista-N	15	15	4	ENERGY Devone Mercury-Q	25	25	3	MEXICO LINDO Da Coconut Hot Club Quality
6	11	5	MY RADIO J.K. Lime Inc.-P	16	14	10	A MOVER LA COLITA Artie The One Man Party Attic-J	26	NEW		GIVE ME LUV Alcatraz Attic-J
7	7	5	WHO DO U LOVE Deborah Cox Ariola-N	17	21	3	EVERYBODY GET DOWN Cherry Moon Dance Pool-H	27	NEW		FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME Pleasure Beat Pirate
8	6	8	SHINE LIKE A STAR Berri Mercury-Q	18	10	10	SEX MACHINE 20 Fingers Zoo-N	28	NEW		TEQUILA & MARIJUANA T & M SPG-P
9	9	4	SITTIN' UP IN MY ROOM Brandy Atlantic-P	19	26	2	SLEEPY MAGGIE Ashley MacIsaac A&M-Q	29	NEW		TRES DESEOS Gloria Estefan Columbia-H
10	12	4	1,2,3,4 (Sumpin' New) Coolio Tommy Boy-Denon	20	16	12	MISSING Everything But The Girl WEA-P	30	23	4	SUGAR PIE Club 69 Capitol-F

CROSS continued from page 7

important showcase for the labels, the majors, to come and look at what's happening and to scout out new talent.

"I'm anticipating what's going to happen in the years to come. The artists coming out of here are selling lots of records across Canada, and obviously the next step is to start building more markets, foreign markets. And as that happens, I expect to see greater interest from major labels in international territories. I definitely think it's coming."

But as impressive as the talent out of the Maritimes has been, MacKinnon doesn't believe the majors should be scouring the provinces looking for anyone who can play a fiddle.

"The mature acts that are ready to take on a national market, all of those acts are pretty well signed and things are happening. There are a lot of other groups that have potential, but need more work in development before they can take it nationally. It's important for these acts not to be pushed out there before they're ready. An artist's career is a short one, you only get so many kicks at the can, so first impressions have to be very strong."

Looking back now, MacKinnon says it's easy to see why Reel 'N' Roll was the record that really broke the band and earned them their major label connection. But as good as that album was, he feels the band took a step even further with their newest release, *The Living River*.

"Living River isn't a huge departure for us stylistically. We did have the luxury of a bigger recording budget this time out. We had the luxury of having more time to spend in the recording process. We worked with Chad Irschick at Inception Sound, he's just a wonderful producer, and really brought a lot musically to the recording, as well as from an engineering point of view."

The *Living River* features 13 tracks, two or which are instrumentals. Outside of one traditional instrumental track, the wealth of the album's songs were written by the Rawlins Cross duo of Dave and Geoff Panting. Although the album continues the band's entertaining blend of celtic and rock and roll, it also contains a much larger sound than in the past, which MacKinnon credits to the engineering/producing talents of Irschick.

Although Rawlins Cross continues to enjoy its greatest popularity in the Atlantic provinces, MacKinnon says that the group is starting to earn some fan support elsewhere, not only across Canada, but in foreign territories as well.

"Recently, Rawlins Cross was playing in Mexico in early October, playing for a Spanish speaking audience, and we got standing ovations, the same kind of enthusiastic response we would get playing in Canada. So obviously, for us that was a very encouraging thing to see."

COUNTRY continued from page 13

the time continuing to play the country club circuit across Ontario. He managed to earn his four year honours degree in music theory and voice in only three years. Good Lookin' Crop Of Love, a song he wrote with Mark Dineen, was taken as the first single. Father, Father, by the same writing team is now being targeted at radio. The other two tracks, Shot Down Again and I'll Be Home Soon, are both Barnett originals. The four tracks, produced by Rick Durrett, were recorded in Nashville. The release is available through 1-800-Joe Radio.

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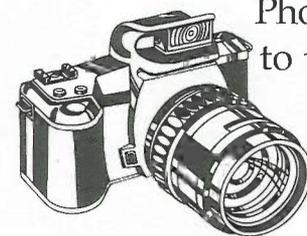
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