

FLASH

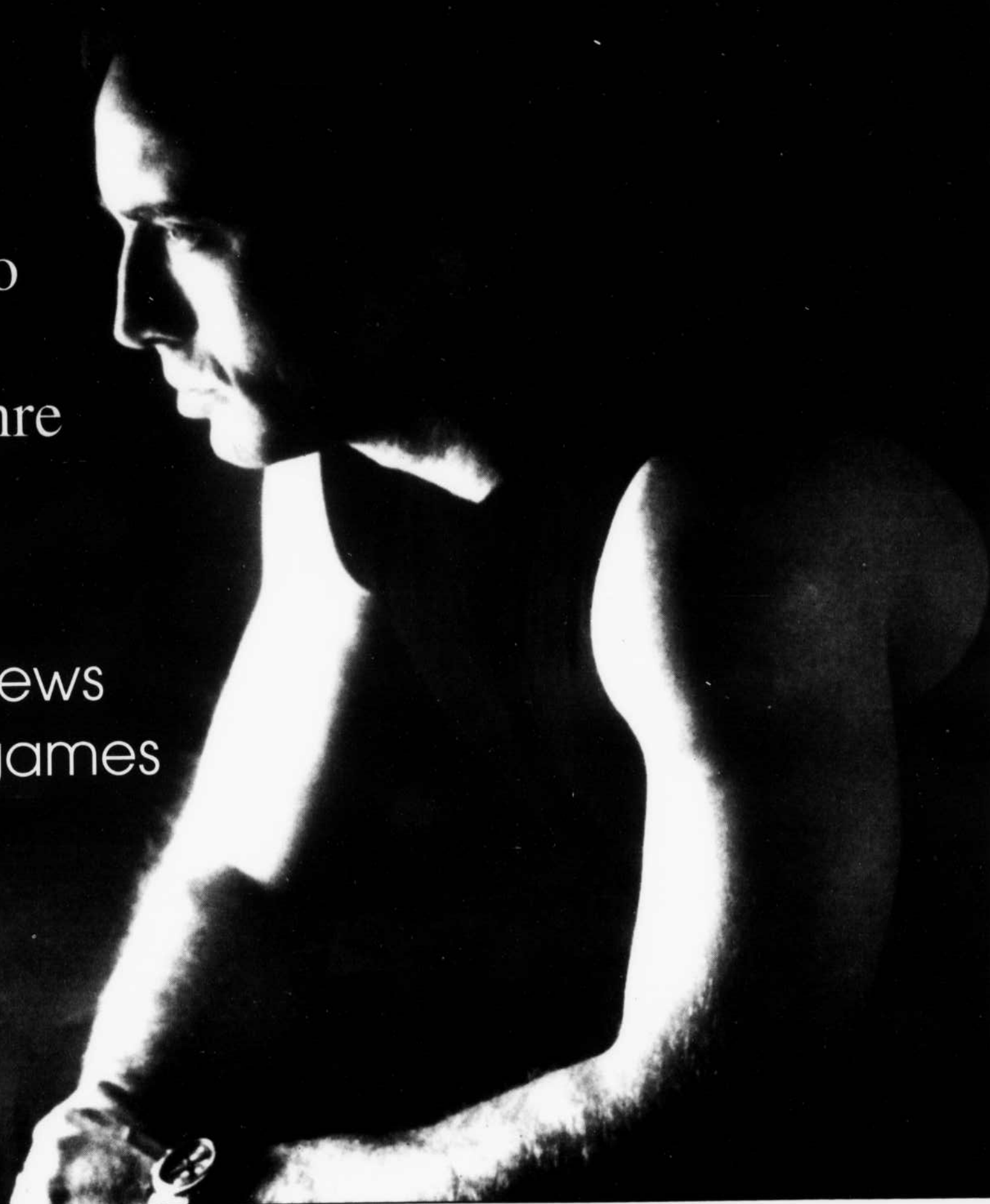
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A SUPPLEMENT TO SIDELINES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

8MM is no
small feat
for it's genre

- Music News
- Death games



SIDELINES

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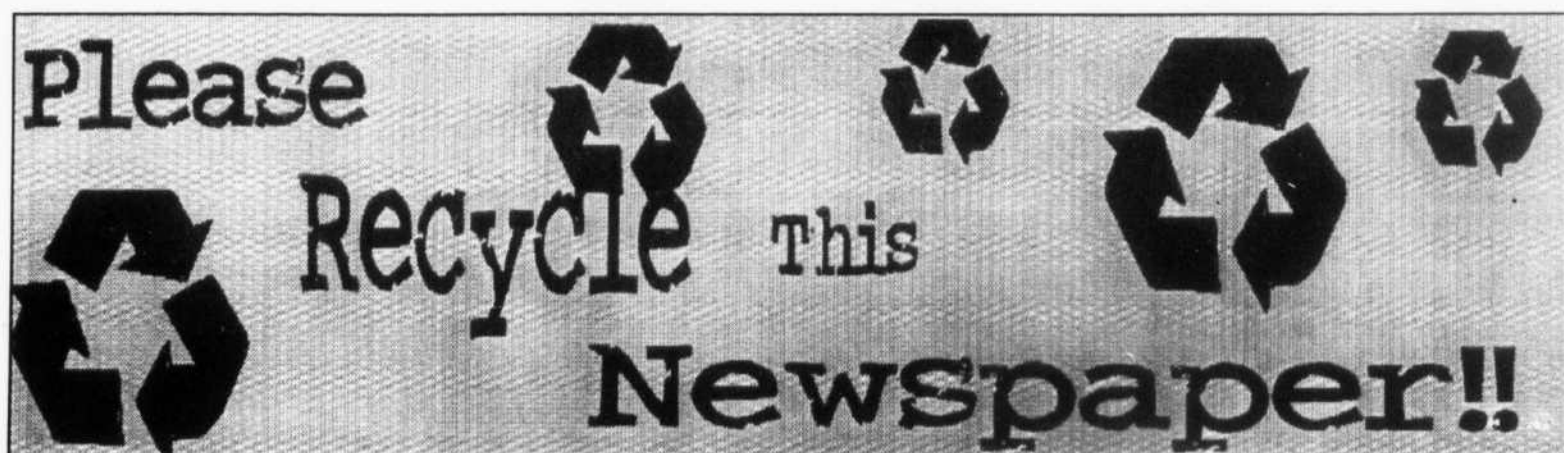
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Quotes of the week

Do, or do not.
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-Yoda

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Aaron Tallent

Natural Talent



8 MM is no small feet for it's genre

As they investigate areel of crudely shot eight millimeter film, private investigator Tom Welles (Nicolas Cage) and street wise adult bookstore clerk Max (Joaquin Phoenix) work together to track down a girl who begins to haunt Welles' imagination.

Aaron Tallent
Flash writer

"Snuff pornography," which is pornography where someone is actually murdered on film has always been a myth in the illegal pornography industry. It has never been brought into the Hollywood mainstream until 8MM.

There is not a better combo to take a film with such dark subject matter than director Joel Schumacher, who took the story of the rape of a ten-year old girl in *A Time to Kill*, and Andrew Kevin Walker, the writer of *Seven*.

8MM tells the story of Tom Welles (Nicholas Cage), a private investigator who specializes in surveillance, and his quest to figure out whether a "snuff porn" film is real. He is hired by Mrs. Christian (Myra Carter) and her lawyer (Anthony Heald) to investigate a "snuff film" that was found in her husband's vault after

his death. Mrs. Christian wants to be assured that the film is not real.

Welles search for this girl leads him all over the country. He goes to Cleveland, North Carolina, Los Angeles, and New York throughout the course of the film. He finds out the girl in the film is a missing person and meets with her mother (Amy Morton). The meeting with the mother and the girl's diary leads Tom to investigate the pornography industry in Los Angeles.

He meets an adult bookstore clerk named Max (Joaquin Phoenix) who he gets to show him around LA's pornography industry. Their quest eventually leads Tom to Eddie Poole (James Gandolfini), a porn film producer, and Dino Velvet (Peter Stormare), a hard-core bondage filmmaker.

With a loving wife (Catherine Keener) who he has not seen in weeks and the ruthlessness and twistedness of the individuals he is pursuing always posing a threat, Tom will have to find himself as he brings justice to the situation.

8MM is an entertaining film and does a good job in handling the subject matter. Joel Schumacher gives the film the dark feel it needs and Andrew Kevin Walker's script keeps the story moving.

Nicholas Cage gives a good performance as the hardworking private eye who is disgusted with situation. He does a good job showing he has a tough time pretending he is a part of it when he is undercover.

Joaquin Phoenix gives a good performance as the kid who goes to LA with the American Dream but ends up working in an adult bookstore. James Gandolfini and Peter Stormare are sleazy and creepy as the two porn peddlers.

Unevenness is the 8MM's main problem. The film begins as a mystery but the case is solved with thirty minutes left in the film. After the climax is reached, it takes forever for the film to wrap itself up.

The film is still entertaining. I enjoyed it but other moviegoers might object to the sick and twisted subject matter.

8MM is an entertaining thriller if you can handle the subject matter. Just don't expect it to be a great thriller when you go see it.

film the dark feel it needs and Andrew Kevin Walker's script keeps the story moving.

STARS: (out of four) ***

Photos provided



James Gandolfini plays Eddie Poole, Dino Velvet's business associate.



Peter Stormare plays Dino Velvet, a filmmaker admired in the sordid subculture Tom Welles investigates.



Catherine Keener plays Tom Welles' wife Amy, who is forced to endure her husbands occupational hazards.

For Some, Predicting Stars' Deaths is only a game

Drake Witham
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

UXBRIDGE, Mass. - Todd McLeish and a few friends huddle around a table in a crowded tavern discussing death.

More to the point, they are discussing why Frank Sinatra's passing didn't offer them a bigger payoff in a macabre game they like to play called "Decompose."

"Every person in the world is worth five points - as long as they're famous," explains McLeish, 36, a corporate public relations man.

"And dead," adds his wife, Renay, 35, a loan officer.

Here at Hanna's Restaurant, where the jukebox hums and the beer glasses clank, the McLeishes and their friends compare scores in their bizarre hobby.

Each has 100 people on a list and - if his or her predictions are correct - many of their picks will be dead by the year's end.

This is a death pool, a ghoulish twist on college basketball tournament pools. Participants typically throw a few dollars into a pot and select the celebrities they think will die in the coming year. The player with the fewest celebrities left standing wins.

These games are not new; they have been springing up at the start of every year for decades in places ranging from Los Angeles to London, and even rural Burrillville, where McLeish's game is based. One player in McLeish's group has been running a game of his own for 30 years. But, like many things deemed unacceptable for dinner conversation, the games have found a niche on the Internet and have exploded in recent years.

Hundreds of Web sites cater to the games. There are advertisements for books on how to succeed in death pools, lists that keep track of whether celebrities are dead or alive and scores of death-pool sites with grim names such as "Grave Expectations," "Chalk Outlines" and "the Lee Atwater Invitational Dead Pool."

The games are popular, but sociologists, psychologists and academicians who study death and grieving find them unsettling.

"It's just bizarre," says Ron Wilder, a board member of the Association of Death Education and Counseling in Hartford, Conn. "I don't understand the pleasure or joy that anyone can get out of predicting anyone's death. It's gruesome and macabre."

Bob Bendiksen, director of the Center for Death Education and Bio-Ethics at the University of Wisconsin at Lacrosse, said his mind flashed to the Khmer Rouge massacres when he saw pictures of "skulls piled high" at one of the Web sites.

"There's a certain degree of morbidity," says Bendiksen, whose center helps people cope with the pain of dying and losing loved ones. "On one hand, it's important to laugh in times of tragedy. On the other hand, if people are keeping reality at a distance by doing this, that can be very unhealthy."

McLeish admits "Decompose" is not something he brings up in conversation often but says there is no harm in the game.

"We're not celebrating the fact that people are dying, but these people are going to die anyway," he reasons. "It is morbid, so what? So is the whole life insurance industry, which is based on who is going to die. We're just taking it to a different extreme."

He started his version of the game 10 years ago under the name "Sir Stiff." Membership has grown steadily from 4 to more than 30 scattered throughout New England.

While many of the pools advertise pots of up to \$3,000, McLeish says his game is strictly for entertainment and involves no wagering.

William J. Ferland, chief of the criminal division of the attorney general's office, says death pools, like office sports pools, are illegal if bets are made. He has heard of the games but says he doesn't know of anyone who has ever been prosecuted for running one.

Generally, death pool players are most richly rewarded for unlikely picks or "hits," as deaths are known in the game lingo. Princess Diana would have been a good choice for 1997, for example, because her death was so unexpected.

To earn points, the obituary must be reported by a major news outlet. And even though it seems unlikely, the rules also say a player can't have anything to do with the celebrity's death.

Some games give higher points the younger the pick, while McLeish's pool gives more points for "solos" - names no other player has selected. Since each celebrity is worth a total of five points, upon death, the points are divided among all the players who picked that star.

So many Decomposers had Frank Sinatra listed last year that the crooner's demise earned them just .21 points each. Ronald Reagan, Boris Yeltsin and Bob Hope are perennials on many lists and "sucker bets," according to one player, because like any type of gambling, you can't win only playing the favorites.

At the end of each year, McLeish compiles the results from the previous year and begins taking in the coming year's predictions.

The top score in Decompose last year was 20 hits (59.51 points) out of 100 picks made by Ghostwriter, a player who scored hits with the deaths of Tammy Wynette, James Earl Ray and bubble-gum inventor Walter Diemer, among others. This year he's already earned three solos, including two on one day - a legendary feat in death game circles. That was Jan. 12, when hockey player Doug Wickenheiser and Betty Lou Gerson, the voice of Cruella daVile in the movie 101 Dalmatians, both died.

Ghostwriter also runs a death pool of his own, called Game Gazette, believed to be the oldest documented death pool. Ghostwriter started the game in 1970 with some fellow graduates of Syracuse University.

Prior to the Internet, the game was played through the mail and a master list on a refrigerator door.

Now the game is played on a Web site and boasts 195 players along with a hall of fame, reasons "why we play" and the listing of every "hit" in the game.

"Now, with the Internet, we have the biggest refrigerator door in the world," says Ghostwriter, who refuses to give his real

name as he hasn't told his extended family about his chilling hobby.

But Ghostwriter is quick to defend it to anyone who criticizes the game. "When people say it's morbid I respect their feelings but I disagree," he says. One of his favorite defenses is comparing death pools to the couch potato world of "roisserie" baseball, in which participants create fantasy teams from the roster of active players and score points based on how well the real players perform on the field.

"The death game is as morbid as roisserie baseball is athletic,"

Ghostwriter says.

But he also admits that "if I hadn't been doing this for 30 years I might think it was pretty creepy."

Creepy, maybe, but players say the game is a way for families and friends to bond around a shared activity.

Playing under the name "Femme al D. Hyde," Ed and Kim Walker play the game with their 15-year-old son, Nathan.

"The guys all think it's cool," says Nathan, between sips from his soda. "But the girls think it's gross."

"I married into it," jokes Renay McLeish, who plays under the name "Milk gone bad."

"I have friends that don't want us to talk about it. They're mortified,"

McLeish says. But "an hour later they've got the napkins out, jotting down names."

Dave Hammonds, who plays in McLeish's game under the name "Awe Toppsie," didn't require much convincing four years ago.

"I'm the one person who, when they first mentioned it, already had my list put together," he says. He's off to a fast start this year, having scored a five-point solo on Iron Eyes Cody, the Native American actor who died this month at the age of 94.

Dave Hammonds, a 35-year-old security guard, jots down names of aging celebrities he hears on National Public Radio broadcasts and those living in the fast lane he gleans from supermarket tabloids.

A phenomenon that combines the highbrow of NPR with the lowbrow of tabloid journalism is all part of our fascination with the rise and fall of celebrities, says Elizabeth Bird, an anthropology professor at the University of South Florida.

"They're somewhat fantasy and mythical figures," she says of celebrities. "Their lives and deaths don't really affect us."

But she says people are "gleeful" at celebrities' failings if they're perceived as arrogant. And fans are saddened if they feel close to a star who dies.

This is evidenced in the death-game lore. Several players quit Game Gazette game after the death of John Lennon in 1980. One player in McLeish's game quit the game almost immediately in 1996 after George Burns died. The player submitted a list with Burns's name, and

See Death Games page 5

Death Games

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comedian was dead.

"He still says he killed George Burns," laughs Dave Hammonds as he rises from the table.

In an effort to keep the number of players growing, Hammonds is off to a nearby table to recruit a couple he met during Friday night visits to Hanna's.

The Decomposers watch with anticipation as Hammonds begins his pitch.

Kim Walker watches the woman grab for more popcorn. "She hasn't lost her appetite," she observes.

And when loud laughter erupts from the table, Renay McLeish heads over with a handful of napkins, the medium on which many lists start.

"I bet within two weeks we get a list," she says.

She wouldn't have scored a hit on that bet. It took the couple more than a month to turn in their predictions.



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Music News

S.N.M. on the Rocks

Lamont Gholston
Special to Flash

What da dilly yo? I know that many of you are saddened by the recent vacation of SNM from the airwaves of 88.3 WMTS. However, I am here to let every one know that SNM will return on March 22. Until then, check out Scrap Time on Mondays from 2-4 PM and 4-6 PM Wednesdays. The Camouflage Don on Fridays from 2-4 AM and 4-6 PM. The Hip Hop Foundation on Sundays 4-6 PM, and For True Heads on Mondays at 8-10 PM. All of these shows put it down for hip-hop so check them out.

Black Moon is back! In 1995, Buckshot, 5FT. & Evil D left Nervous Records due to unresolved differences. But the label retained ownership of the name Black Moon. Duck Down (the Priority-distributed label founded by Buckshot) has settled a lawsuit with Nervous, securing the right to use the name on their upcoming album, Warzone, and on future projects involving the trio. For an undisclosed dollar amount, Duck Down will license the name Black Moon as well as five songs of back catalogue for a Boot Camp Clik Greatest Hits project to be released on Priority/Duck Down this summer. In addition, O.G.C. is finishing up their second album, The M Pire X Back. The Orinoo Gunn Clappaz will have production by heads like Baby Paul, Black Market, Havoc, JT, and others. Many BCC and MFC heads will be on the album. "Suspect Niggaz," the first song off the album being released on white label that features Buckshot and Havoc, should be out soon.

Although Jay-Z was nominated for Best Rap Solo Performance, Best Performance, and Best Rap Album at Wednesday night's Grammy awards, he did not attend saying that the Grammys continue to overlook major hip-hop artists. Still, despite his boycott of the ceremony, Jigga will keep the award he won for Best Rap Album for "Vol. 2 ... Hard Knock Life."

At his home in Philadelphia, DJ Jazzy Jeff is hard at work on his first solo album. (Hasn't he been threatening this since the Fresh Prince went back to being Will Smith.) According to the Los Angeles Times, the album will showcase his dinging and production skills, as well as feature such diverse and notable artists as Eminem, King Britt, De La Soul, The Roots, Common, and the Fresh Prince himself. Several months ago, Jeff and Will Smith returned to their roots in London, doing a show with just two turntables and a microphone. Now, Jeff hopes to coerce Smith into joining him on the road for all-out tour.

Universal Music Group has completed the process of assembling the record industry's largest music conglomerate by finally closing their deal to buy Def Jam Records. Def Jam had been holding out, demanding the hefty sum of \$100 million for the remaining forty percent of the company they didn't already own, which is a great deal higher than the \$33 million Polygram (now owned by UMG) paid for the original sixty percent in 1993. Russell "Rush" Simmons is expected to stay on as Def Jam's chairman, with his CEO, Lyor Cohen, running Universal's urban music dept. As a show of just how important an acquisition this is to UMG, it's been decided that Universal's recently merged Island-Mercury group will now be known as the Island-Def Jam group.

Stacie Odeneal
Staff writer

Well, here's the latest. George Strait's latest came out March 2, that would be two days ago. As most hard core country fans are aware of, George Strait is the king of country music and has been since his first hit back in the 80's, "Unwound". His latest hit, "Meanwhile" is on the album that came out Tuesday entitled, "Always Never the Same". Pretty clever, no?

Once again, George will be on tour with his George Strait Country Music Fest. I went to the one last year at Turner Field and it was pretty good. Not only is the music great, but the thousands of drunken, half-naked rednecks are pretty hilarious. I sat on the very last row in the stadium, meaning should the pigeons have attacked, I would've fallen to my death. However, watching the six people sitting four rows below me try to walk down approximately 379 steps after a case of Bud Light was a riot. For those concerned, all but one made it down

Redneck Rock Review

safely. One girl passed out and had to be carried by her boyfriend who more or less slid her down on the rail.

Anyway, this year's fest will include performances from the Dixie Chicks, Jo Dee Messina, Mark Wills, Kenny Chesney, Asleep at the Wheel and the awesome Tim McGraw. Tim McGraw's concerts are also fabulous. See him anytime you get the chance.

In trivial news, Jo Dee Messina will be guest appearing on Nash Bridges on April 30.

"You Were Mine" by the Dixie Chicks was on top this week, speaking chart-wise. My favorite Mark Chesnutt followed with "Don't Wanna Miss a Thing". And Achy-Breaky Heart wonder, Billy Ray Cyrus made a triumphant return to the charts with "Busy Man". Last week's man-o-the-hour was Billboard's largest gainer with his song, "How Forever Feels".

This week's guy-o-the-week is dedicated to the fabulous FarmHouse brother and my cousin John Buchanan and happens to be Chris LeDoux. I only knew Chris from his hits "Cadillac Ranch"

and "Whatcha Gonna Do with a Cowboy" that he sung with Garth Brooks. However, John plays only one cd and it's Chris LeDoux. Now I realize that he is kinda good in a western/rodeo kind of way. And rightfully so since his, Chris's not John's, songwriting career began when he started writing on the road between rodeos. He started his rodeo career at 14 and earned a college scholarship in rodeo. At 28, he won the world championship in bareback bronco riding. Point being, he knows what he's doing. His style is reminiscent of George Strait and Garth Brooks and yet different. Definitely worth listening to, at least once. There you go, John.

R & B: According to Shawn

Shawn Whitsell
Staff writer

Yo, Yo, Yo!! What the deal? Did you miss me? Well, I'm sorry that my column wasn't in last week's FLASH? But I'm back so let's do this!

Well, the Artist (formerly known as Prince) has filed a copyright and trade-infringement lawsuit against nine web sites for bootlegging recordings and unauthorized song downloads. I guess the people who created the web sites thought they couldn't get caught. A word to the wise, if you are truly a fan of a recording artists, just go out and buy the records so that the artists will get his/her royalties. It also helps the artist obtain gold and platinum status.

Are you feelin' Ginuwine's new single, "What's So Different"? I wasn't feelin' it at all at first but it's slowly growing on me. It's alright but "All Do Anything/I'm Sorry" and "Same Ol G" are his best hits. Anyway, the bachelor will release his sophomore effort "100% Ginuwine" on March 16 and will be writing a song for the all-male pop group 'N Sync. Ginuwine spent a week with the

group in Florida to catch their vibe. I don't know when they will begin work on the project but I'll let you know when it happens. Ginuwine also did a duet with Aaliyah, which will be his second single. Speaking of collabos, Mary J. Blige and George Michael are blowing up the spot overseas with their remake of the Stevie Wonder hit "As." The song has not been released in the U.S. because Blige's label will not allow it. Don't ask me why! The song can be heard on some U.S. radio stations. I saw a snippet of the video and it's pretty tight. It has a multiplicity thang goin' on. It sorta reminds me of Blige's "I'm Going Down" video, where there were a bunch of Mary Js going down the steps.

Toni Braxton who has starred in the Broadway production "Beauty and the Beast," is about to team back up with Babyface. Braxton settled her dispute with Laface Records and is looking forward to getting back into the studio with Babyface. I'm sure her fans will be glad to hear that. It's good to hear about people uniting, although I can't say the same about Janet Jackson her former love, Rene Elizonda. After 13 years, the two have parted ways. Now,

Janet can get with me. I'm just jonin'! I don't want Janet because I only have eyes for the lovely Lauryn Hill. Speaking of which, my girl blew up the spot at the Grammys, taking home five awards, setting a record for the most Grammys won by a female artist in one night. Ms. Hill (or should I say Mrs. Whitsell) has earned five nominations for the Soul Train Music Awards, which is the most nominations for the ceremony. She and R. Kelly will also receive the Sammy Davis Jr. Award. The show will be hosted by Brian McKnight, Monica and Tyra Banks and will be aired on March 25.

Down with the Underground

Keith Ryan Cartwright
Staff writer

It's official, after a 12-year hiatus they're back!

Twisted Sister will return to the concert trail this summer with all five original members including Dee Snider, Jay Jay French, Mark Mendoza, A.J. Pero and Eddie Ojeda.

The group will done its trademark make-up and color-coded stage duds for a selected number of tour dates beginning this summer and continuing through the fall.

Rumors began late last year and resurfaced after French was quoted on MTV News saying the group had not ruled out a reunion tour but that the situation would have to be "absolutely right."

Persistent fans and a successful recording session last year by the five members led to the eminent tour. Twisted Sister recorded for the first time in over a decade last year when they entered a studio to record the title track to the movie "Strangeland."

"Strangeland" was written and directed by Snider, it's his first foray into film making.

Twisted Sister performed together for 15 years, logging more than 3,300 live shows between 1973 and 1987. The band released five studio albums and one greatest hits package resulting in 34 gold and platinum certifications worldwide.

"Stay Hungry," the group's third studio album on Atlantic Records, was Twisted Sister's crowning achievement. With the ground breaking MTV videos "We're Not Gonna Take It" and "I Wanna Rock," the album has sold over six million copies worldwide.

Dave Kirby of The Agency Group, Ltd. in New York City will be scheduling a limited number of live performances for Twisted Sister. He can be reached at (212)581-3100.

Since the band broke up Snider has kept himself busy in the music world. Aside from writing material for movies, he toured and recorded with his solo project and later formed a Twisted Sister tribute band.

Ironically, Snider's solo band played Twister Sister songs live and Snider was miffed to find out several tribute bands were paid more money to perform in some cities than his band. In turn Snider formed the tribute to himself in order to as he said, "cash in on

America."

One question does remain unanswered. During Twisted Sister's hey-day French wear dark tinted sun glasses not as a fashion statement but rather, he suffered from stag freight. Never once in during their 3,300 shows was French able to look into the crowd, the mere sight of a fans face while playing causes him to hyper-ventilate.

My guess is that French will done the glass but for a different reason. If the crowds rival that of Snider's solo band, French may need the glasses to keep from noticing the dwindling crowd.

Any way you look at it, the big anthem sounds of arena rock is back...yeah right!

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Nashville 717-3020

PUFFING BILLY'S PUB
NW Broad ST.

Murfreesboro 896-9661

RADIO CAFE
1313 Woodland St.
Nashville 262-1766

RYMAN AUDITORIUM
116 5th Ave. N.
Nashville 889-6611

SEBASTIANS
109 N. Maple
Murfreesboro 895-8922

2ND & GOAL
128 2nd Ave. N.
Nashville 244-5340

SHOELESS JOE'S SPORTS CAFE
1850 Old Fort Pkwy
Murfreesboro 893-2028

SOUL SATISFACTION
328 4th Ave. S.
Nashville 259-3288

STARWOOD AMPHITHEATER
3839 Murfreesboro Rd.
Antioch 641-5800

STATION INN
402 12th Ave. S.
Nashville 255-3307

3RD & LINDSLEY
818 3rd Ave. S.
Nashville 259-9891

TPAC
505 Deaderick St.
Nashville 782-4000

12TH & PORTER
114 12th Ave. N.
Nashville 254-7236

VERTIGO DANCE CLUB
2146 Thompson Ln.
Murfreesboro 893-3999

WILDHOUSE SALOON
120 2nd Ave. N.
Nashville 251-1000

ZANIES
2025 8th Ave. S.
Nashville 269-0221

Upcoming Shows

328 PERFORMANCE HALL
328 4th Avenue South
Nashville, 615 259-3288

MORPHINE
special guests Mr. Airplane man
8pm Saturday March 14
Tickets \$11 advance \$12 at door

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT
special guest Imogen Heap
8pm Saturday March 20.
Tickets \$10 advance \$14 at door

More Upcoming Shows

SEANACHIE
Irish Pub and Restaurant
327 Broadway
Nashville
726-2006

March 10- Wednesday
8:00 pm to Midnight
"Celtic Writers Night"

March 11- Thursday
9:00 pm
Mary Jane Lamound
\$5

March 12- Friday
8:30-1:00am
"Plastic Paddy"

March 13- Saturday
8:30-1:00am
"Plastic Paddy"

March 14- Sunday
7:00pm
"Echoes of Ireland" writers night

March 17- Wednesday
All Day St. Patricks Day Celebration
Traditional Irish breakfast buffet
3 live bands fro traditional Irish to top

40
\$99 specials and a live remote
broadcast by
WTN's Ankarlo Mornings
Register to win your very own pub in

Ireland
and also enter to win free Guinness
for a year.
Channel 5 Talk of the Town will
broadcast live
from 12:30 to 1:30pm

SHERYL CROW
with special guest Eagle Eye Cherry
Grand Ole Opry House
March 22nd
7:30pm
Tickets \$35, \$29.50 and \$25
on sale now at Ticketmaster locations
Charge by phone: 615-255-9600

12TH & PORTER
The Billygoats
Thursday- March 11
9:00pm
\$5

THE BORO BAR & GRILL
Marhc 10
Osadolos

March 11
The Comfies

March 12]
Bone Pony

March 13
The Katies with Dirty Trix

Every Sunday
open mike matinee
4-8pm
Roland Gresham
Jazz
8pm

Celebrate St. Patricks Day at The
Boro with
Secret Commonwealth
Wenesday, March 17

THE BLUEBIRD CAFE
Wednesday-March10
Jelly Roll Johnson & A few close

friends
CD Release show with Tony Arata,
Malcom Holcombe & Fred Knobloch
Thursday-March 11
Dana Cooper and Band
Friday-March 12
An evening with Kevin Welch
Saturday-March 13
ITR with the Heavenly choices voices
Bob DiPiero, Craig Wiseman, Al
Anderson, &
Jeffrey Steele
Sunday-March14
Writers Night 8pm
with guest John Tirro
Monday-March 15
The Blueboloods with Mike
Henderson, Glen Worf, John Jarvis
& John Gardner
Wednesday-March 17
Spntaeous Comedy Company
Thursday-March 18
Dan Bern
Friday-March 18
ITR
Danny Flowers, John Cowan &
friends
Saturday-March19
Y-Jams
Jon & Audrey Wiggins, Neil Coty &
Harley Allen

Even if you owe more tax,
you can file your return
early with IRS *e-file*—get
quick proof that your return
is accepted—but wait until
April 15th to pay.

IRS *e-file* is simple and
secure. And so accurate,
there's less chance you'll
get a letter from the IRS.

When you e-file, you have
convenient payment options.
One option allows you to
authorize a withdrawal
from your bank account on
the date you choose, up to
April 15th. Another option
allows you to pay with
your credit card.

If you expect a refund,
all the better. With IRS
e-file, you can get it back
in half the usual time.
Even faster with Direct
Deposit.

For further details,
visit our Web site at
www.irs.ustreas.gov or
see your tax professional.

IRS e-file

CLICK. ZIP.
FAST ROUND TRIP.

At the **IRS** we want to answer questions **better** solve problems **faster** and even **smile** a little more.



To serve you better and faster, we're expanding our hotline phone hours. As of 1999, you can call toll-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week to speak to an IRS expert.

And we've loaded our Web site with Frequently Asked Questions

plus lots of helpful facts.

On our special Problem Solving Days, you can walk into an IRS office with a tax problem and get help on the spot. See our Web site for local schedules, or call our toll-free hotline.

For tougher problems, there's the IRS Problem Resolution Program. Your personal advocate can be assigned to work with you to reach a solution.

With IRS e-file you can file fast and get your refund fast, filing electronically. Now e-filers can also pay their tax electronically.

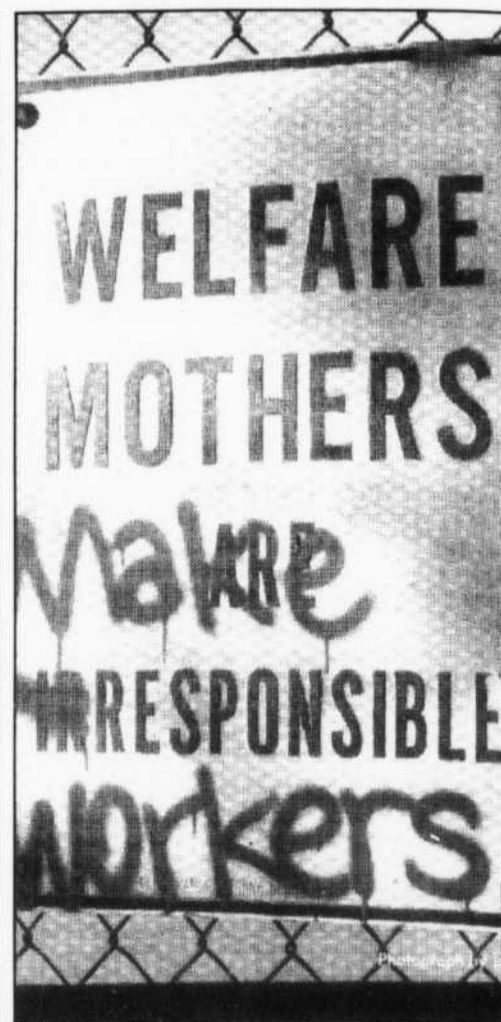
There's a new emphasis on service at today's IRS.

IRS toll-free hotline

1-800-TAX-1040

Web site: www.irs.ustreas.gov

The Internal Revenue Service  Working to put service first



Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Aries (March 21-April 19). You should really be feeling your oats this week. A massive dose of spring fever could hit about Monday and last all the way through Wednesday, at least. You'll hate being cooped up inside. You'll want to get out and run. Unfortunately, this is followed immediately by a test on Thursday and/or Friday, concerning your responsibilities at work. Make sure at least the important stuff is finished, before you go out and play. You'll want to visit fascinating friends over the weekend, and you sure won't want to have to work overtime instead.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Join forces and finances with a partner on Monday to get what you want. A surprising development could increase your savings on Tuesday, and Wednesday, your best investment is on travel. Be careful if you're leaving on Thursday, however. Odds are high you'll leave something behind. Could be your heart, if you have to leave someone you love to visit somebody else on Friday. This weekend would be a great time to get together with an older person and make plans for the future.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). The competition is going to be tough the first part of this week, with your opponent pulling all sorts of surprise moves. But even if you lose, you win, because it'll be so interesting. Don't spend too much money on social activities Thursday and Friday. You could get overdrawn much more quickly than you expected. Travel looks good for this weekend, though. The surprises there should be pleasant ones.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). On Monday, the choice is between love or money, but maybe you can choose both. Tuesday and Wednesday are very busy, but also quite profitable. Pay attention. There will be abrupt changes to your plans. Thursday and Friday are your best for working with a partner, so don't let yourself get overloaded. This weekend should be excellent for shopping for a household appliance.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Fun and games are on your mind the first part of this week, which could make it more difficult to get anything else done. Unfortunately, you still have a few bills to be paid, so quitting your job is not a good idea, especially on Thursday and Friday, when they'll really need you there. This weekend, negotiate with an expert to get something finished you don't want to do yourself. The time you'll save will make it worth the money you spend.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The first part of this week will be good for renovations around the house, including buying new. Get the whole place fixed up so you can entertain a special friend on Thursday and/or Friday. Over the weekend, you'll be more interested in fixing things again.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The first part of this week is very busy as you juggle a full workload and a demanding partner simultaneously. Around Wednesday, things should start to quiet down, and you'll get a little more time to spend at home Thursday and Friday. Plan to do that on purpose, so you don't have to get sick to make it happen. The weekend is very good for romance, of an intellectual nature.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your intuition is working well this week, and your energy level is high. That's good, because there's more than too much to do. You work hard for the money on Monday and Tuesday, and you can take a break by about Wednesday. Learn a new trick on Thursday that could get help you through the day on Friday. Plan to stay home this weekend, if possible. Don't worry. There will be plenty going on there to keep you from getting bored.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). On Monday, you get stronger, as the moon goes into your sign. Tuesday and Wednesday, you're at full force, and causing things to happen quickly. You can make a big impact then, so act decisively to get the changes you want. On Thursday and Friday, you'll see more ways to pay for the renovations you're requesting, and over the weekend, you can figure out how you're going to do what you want to have done. Be bold. Looks like destiny is on your side.

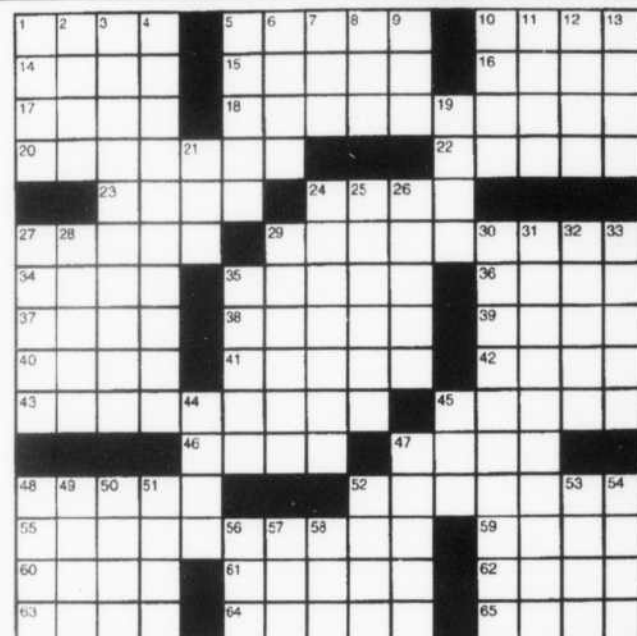
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're under a bit of pressure the first part of this week to get something done around the house. It could be your honey-do list, and your honey is getting tired of waiting. Your problem is, you have something else in mind, but you may not be sure quite what until Thursday and Friday. A difference of opinion could cause an argument, but don't fret. You should have a compromise worked out by the weekend. Do that, so you can go shopping together.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Looks like you're in school the first part of this week. From Monday through Wednesday, you're hanging out with friends, and learning a lot, whether you're in a formal educational setting or not. On Thursday and Friday, there will be a test - at least one. Don't expect it to be on the material you studied. It's more likely on what you've learned through experience. You should get through it fine, but either way, the weekend is excellent for a party at your house. Set up a few rules ahead of time, though. People will have a tendency to be rowdy.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). You can expect to run into surprises from Monday through Wednesday. Changes are happening in high places, so watch out. Thursday and Friday should be a lot easier. An important friend puts in a good word for you. On Saturday and Sunday, go through the paperwork and pull out the stuff you don't need anymore. You'll feel a lot lighter once that's done.

ACROSS

- 1 Caked deposit
- 5 Apso
- 10 Domestic worker
- 14 Actress Anderson
- 15 Grade-B western
- 16 Verdi opera
- 17 Building wings
- 18 Surpassing all others
- 20 Limp
- 22 Passport stamps
- 23 Relatives of raspberries
- 24 Cairo's river
- 27 Odor
- 29 Olympics stars
- 34 Dusting powder
- 35 Young kangaroos
- 36 Skewer
- 37 Having the skill
- 38 Muddle
- 39 Tibetan monk
- 40 Dyeing vat
- 41 Ponders
- 42 Actress Moran
- 43 Items by couches
- 45 Savage and Friendly
- 46 Formerly owned
- 47 Old codger
- 48 Follow closely
- 52 Like an old codger
- 55 Officially signed in
- 59 River of Pisa
- 60 Shelter a fugitive, e.g.
- 61 The in crowd
- 62 Cordelia's father
- 63 Created
- 64 Helpers
- 65 Sports stn.



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3/13/99

DOWN

- 1 Pitch symbol
- 2 Rock's partner?
- 3 Lacking tags
- 4 Ruffle
- 5 St. Cardinals
- 6 Round of applause
- 7 Consumed
- 8 Form datum
- 9 Slice of a circle
- 10 Bamako's nation
- 11 Feels poorly
- 12 Notion
- 13 Fathers
- 19 First name in daredevils
- 21 Simple bed
- 24 Teased
- 25 Pastoral poems
- 26 Burns, as cataracts
- 27 Tent peg
- 28 Rustic abode
- 29 Sofa section
- 30 Piece of Michigan
- 31 Items in trunks
- 32 Shy
- 33 Laurel and Musial
- 35 Door columns
- 44 Diving sea birds
- 45 Piccadilly pea soup
- 47 Secret messages
- 48 Trolley car
- 49 Singer McEntire
- 50 Old
- 51 Issue a traffic ticket
- 52 Outdoor gala
- 53 Lose one's cool
- 54 Cornucopia
- 56 Herbal quaff
- 57 Actor Wallach
- 58 Eliminate

