

No Zoo Out There: Long, Hot Summer Winds Down

We got a couple of new books in the mail this week from Atlanta's Longstreet Press.

One of the perks of the job, we guess.

The first is called "Zoo Man: Inside the Zoo Revolution." It is written by Terry Maple, the director of Zoo Atlanta and the man credited with taking the Atlanta zoo from one of the nation's 10 worst in 1984 to one of the 10 best today.

Flipping through the book, the word "zoo" kept catching our eye (as it would in a book about zoos, we suppose).

But do you know how silly a word that is? Zoo? It is, of course, the abbreviation of "zoological park," which derives its name from "zoology," which is the Latin word for the study of animal life. But no matter, "zoo" is a very strange looking word, especially when you see it repeated over and over again on the pages of a book.

Zoo. Just think about it. The other book is called "Heat: How to Live With It." It's a little too late, of course, since summer is nearly over. But we flipped through it anyway and discovered all kinds of facts about heat and tips for beating the heat, like this:

"When you're floating in the water, keep your raft a little under-inflated... it means your body will remain half-in, half-out of the water."

Really? Seriously, "Heat" is a pretty interesting read. It tells of the Army's attempts in 1941 to train soldiers in the desert to survive on just one canteen of water a day. The result: Many of the soldiers died.

"Heat" the book is compiled by staff writers of the Yuma, Ariz., Daily Sun, who should know what they are talking about when it comes to heat.

SPEAKING OF HEAT: Ahh, you knew we could turn this into something, right? We'll be getting down to The Big Easy (New Orleans) this weekend for a short vacation, and everybody has told us that it will, in-



J. Frank Lynch

deed, be hot. Indeed, like this summer in Savannah hasn't been?

At any rate, this will be our first trip to New Orleans and the fabled French Quarter and all that and we'll be taking some notes. Look for our report next Friday.

And even though we aren't anywhere near Mardi Gras, "Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler," as they say.

AROUND TOWN: We're told this is the slow season even in New Orleans, but even so we hope it more hopping than ol' Savannah. When are things going to pick up around here? It's as if the entire city has come to a screeching halt over the past couple of weeks. But Labor Day is just around the corner, and then comes lots of fall stuff. So hang tight.

Meanwhile, go check out local blue faves EROK back at The Bottom Line for a special engagement Saturday at 9 p.m. If you've never heard EROK, it's not because you haven't had the opportunity. They get around, including a regular Wednesday gig at Bernie's on Bay ... Speaking of Bernie's Bay Street location, Proper Motion is on stage there tonight and Saturday ... The Cross Roads features The Shades this weekend and The Deciples next Wednesday and Thursday ... Malone's hosts The Sun Dogs in the City Market courtyard again this weekend. The band cranks up about 10:30 ... Local musician done good in Atlanta, Dan Random (Daniel Cowan) is back in town for a one-time gig at Congress Street Station to-

night at 10. He's sharing that bill with Foot Society. National touring act Egypt plays Congress Street Saturday ...

Out on the Southside, the Comedy House Theater has the duo of Malone and Nootcheez through Sunday. They are described as "The Smothers Brothers of the '90s" and do an act heavy on song improvisations and stuff like that ... Popular Florida band The Image continues its gig at Doubles in the Holiday Inn Midtown through next weekend ... The Evening News features the music of The Stand today and Saturday. On Tuesday, the sports bar offers something never before seen in Savannah, Shoot Wrestling broadcast live via satellite from Japan. We don't understand what it is either, but it was described as a cross between kick boxing and "real" wrestling. Show starts at 9 p.m. Tuesday...

SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES: We predicted there would be some sort of fall-out or reaction following the opening of Carmike's Cinemas 10 about three weeks ago, and here it is. Starting today, Litchfield's Victory Square Cinemas is lowering the prices on all its shows by 50 cents and now claims to have "the lowest prices in town." All matinee shows are now \$3 and regular prices are \$5 adults and \$3 kids and senior citizens. That's a good 50 cents less than anybody else, including the new Carmike, and a good \$2 cheaper than you would pay at some theaters in Atlanta.

What next? We wish somebody would come to town and open an office or 11 house. We can't imagine why there isn't one already.

CONCERT NOTES: A couple of big shows are headed nearby in recent weeks. Tickets go on sale Aug. 27 to a show by Aerosmith and opening act 4 Non Blondes on Oct. 1 at the Carolina Coliseum in Columbia, S.C. Seats are \$22.50 each and can be ordered by calling 803-777-7228 ... The Allman Brothers Band and opener Warren Haynes will play the

North Charleston Coliseum on Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$19.50 and go on sale Saturday. Call 803-577-4500 ... Ol' Blue Eyes Frank Sinatra kicked off his late-summer outdoor concert tour earlier this week in Atlanta, and the story in the Atlanta paper did mention that he just came out of a recording session for a new "duets" album. So maybe there was some truth to the excuse given for cancellation of Sinatra's Hilton Head concert, which had been scheduled for last Sunday ... We also read a new interview recently with Clint Black in which he made absolutely no mention of his summer tour with Wynonna Judd, and certainly no mention of the Hilton Head rainout mess. Black will be back in town at the Savannah Civic Center on Sept. 31 to appease all those angry fans, who can still buy tickets (\$15 each) at the Civic Center box office. Call 651-6556 ...

And we got a somewhat urgent fax this week from the organizers of this Saturday's Great Atlanta Pot Festival, informing us that Cypress Hill would not be appearing as previously announced. "This cancellation comes at the request of the director of National NORML," the fax read. NORML is the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. The fax did not report what exactly Cypress Hill did to raise the ire of the National NORML organization.

Anyway, the event goes up at "high noon" Saturday in Atlanta's Piedmont Park with Follow for Now, Nihilist, Kilo, M.C. Breed, The Grapes, Chain Gang, Month of Sundays and other groups, speakers and such. There is no admission, which explains why 60,000 people showed up last year...

Got club news or an item of interest for Night Beat? Send it, along with the name of a contact person and daytime phone number, to: Night Beat, Features Department, Savannah News-Press, P.O. Box 1088, Savannah, GA 31402. Or call 236-9511 ext. 227.

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TVWeek

Erika Alexander stars as one of four roommates who are "Living Single" (Sunday, FOX). Also starring Queen Latifah, Kim Fields and Kim Coles, the new series is one of several that will be premiering this week for the upcoming fall season.



SAVANNAH NEWS/PRESS
SEE WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU!

Everybody's Scoring In The Movie Business Music Boom

By JOHN HORN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES - Jimmy Durante's career is taking an unexpected upswing.

Thirteen years after his death, the gravel-voiced crooner is releasing a single and starring in a music video - thanks to the smash "Sleepless in Seattle" soundtrack.

Durante's "As Times Goes By" should be in stores early next month, with the video to follow. The soundtrack's ballad "When I Fall in Love" (by Celine Dion and Clive Griffin) already is a best seller, and the soundtrack itself may sell a robust 3 million copies.

Soundtrack albums are hugely popular right now. On the most recent Billboard charts, 16 soundtracks placed among the top 200. Four releases - "Sleepless in Seattle," "The Bodyguard," "Menace II Society" and "Last Action Hero" - are in the Top 25. And even the "Jurassic Park" instrumental score - no pop songs, just John Williams orchestration - is doing some business.

These albums aren't just an easy way to cash in on a movie's popularity.

Record labels also can use these compilations to launch, rekindle or - in the case of Durante - resurrect a performer's career. A well-crafted soundtrack actually can bring people into theaters.

The makers of "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues" have delayed the film's release for four months so K.D. Lang can write three new songs and the movie's instrumental score.

The marketing appeal of lang's music, says Fine Line Features President Ira Deutchman, "was one of the reasons why we were so flexible about the release date. We thought it was as big a plus as (director) Gus Van Sant did."

Radio aisplay and music videos from the "Menace II Society" rap soundtrack give that film free advertising long after New Line Cinema's marketing budget ran dry. "It's just another means to hit the consumers in the face," says Chris Pula, New Line's marketing chief. "The soundtrack is another way to break through the clutter. It doesn't necessarily drive the movie, but it does help perpetuate its presence."

You don't have to have a hit movie to produce a hit soundtrack.

Even though "Sliver" was blasted by critics and ignored by moviegoers, UB40's reggae rendition of the Elvis Presley song "Can't Help Falling in Love" has been the nation's top single for five straight weeks.

"So I Married an Axe Murderer" bombed, but record buyers are snapping up the soundtrack to hear alternative bands Spin Doctors, Soul Asylum and Toad the Wet Sprocket.

Regardless of whether it's a big box-office hit, the audience reacts," says John Cannelli, MTV's senior vice president for music and talent relations. Specifically, music videos

from the busts "Last Action Hero" (pairing Arnold Schwarzenegger and AC-DC) and "Coneheads" (with The Red Hot Chili Peppers) have been well-received on MTV.

"It's another reason to tune into the channel - to not only see the film stars, but also the musical artists," Cannelli says.

The soundtrack from the theatrical washout "Singles" didn't just sell more than a million copies over the last year. It helped establish the popularity of the hot Washington state bands Alice in Chains and Screaming Trees, whose respective songs "Would" and "I Nearly Lost You" are on the soundtrack.

"The Alice in Chains album ('Dirt') debuted at No. 6," says Glen Brunman, senior vice president of Epic Soundtrax. "The debut would not have been that high had it not been for 'Singles.'"

Epic Soundtrax released the "Singles" album and, in a fortunate twist of corporate synergy, Alice in Chains is on Epic sister label Columbia. Epic also has the soundtrack to "Sleepless in Seattle" - a movie released by TriStar Pictures, owned by Epic parent Sony Corp. USA.

The 36-minute "Sleepless in Seattle" soundtrack is omnipresent - a local Italian restaurant, for example, alternates it with "La Boheme." And that can't hurt the movie.

"The movie drove the soundtrack, but it has such a reputation people bought it and have said, 'This is good. Let's go see the movie,'" says Gary Foster, the film's producer.

"You have the widest span of record buyers - from youngest to oldest - buying this record than any other record on the charts right now," Brunman says. "And ('When I Fall in Love') is probably going to be one of the most-played videos of 1993."

Increasingly popular are concept soundtracks albums.

The "Honeymoon in Vegas" soundtrack features rock and country stars re-recording Presley songs. The soundtrack for "Judgement Night," an upcoming Universal film, pairs rap singers with heavy metal acts on 11 collaborations. And "Sleepless in Seattle," except for two new recordings, features vintage songs like "Stardust" by Nat King Cole and "Back in the Saddle Again" by Gene Autry.

The Scottish pop duo The Proclaimers are one of the most dramatic examples of soundtrack power. Their five-year-old love song "I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)" landed on the "Benny & Joon" soundtrack only because the film's co-star Mary Stuart Masterson was listening to a Proclaimers album at a rehearsal and director Jeremiah Chechick heard it.

As soon as "Benny & Joon" arrived in theaters, the Proclaimers' 1988 album "Sunshine on Leith" raced up the charts (where it had never appeared previously), as did the "Benny & Joon" soundtrack

TOP HITS

Here are the weekly charts for the nation's best-selling recorded music as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission: (Platinum signifies more than 1 million copies sold; Gold signifies more than 500,000 copies sold.)

TOP SINGLES

1. "Can't Help Falling In Love," UB40 (Virgin) (Platinum)
2. "Whoop! (There It Is)," Tag Team (Life) (Platinum)
3. "Dreamlover," Mariah Carey (Columbia)
4. "Lately," Jodeci (Uptown) (Gold)
5. "Runaway Train," Soul Asylum (Columbia)
6. "I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)," The Proclaimers (Chrysalis) (Gold)
7. "If," Janet Jackson (Virgin)
8. "Slam," Onyx (JMJ-RAL) (Platinum)
9. "If I Had No Loot," Tony! Toni! Tone! (Wing) (Gold)

TOP ALBUMS

1. "River of Dreams," Billy Joel (Columbia)
2. "Sleepless in Seattle" Soundtrack, (Epic Soundtrax)
3. "Black Sunday," Cypress Hill (Columbia)
4. "Janet," Janet Jackson (Virgin) (Platinum)
5. "Core," Stone Temple Pilots (Atlantic) (Platinum)

6. "Zooropa," U2 (Island)
7. "Blind Melon," Blind Melon (Capitol) (Gold)
8. "Promises and Lies," UB40 (Virgin)
9. "Get a Grip," Aerosmith (Geffen) (Platinum)
10. "The Bodyguard" Soundtrack, (Arista) (Platinum)

COUNTRY SINGLES

1. "Can't Break It To My Heart," Tracy Lawrence (Atlantic Album Cut)
2. "Why Didn't I Think of That," Doug Stone (Epic)
3. "What Might Have Been," Little Texas (Warner Bros.)
4. "Reno," Doug Supernaw (BNA)
5. "Every Little Thing," Carlene Carter (Giant)
6. "Thank God for You," Sawyer Brown (Curb)
7. "In the Heart of a Woman," Billy Ray Cyrus (Mercury)
8. "Mama Knows the Highway," Hal Ketchum (Curb Album Cut)
9. "A Thousand Miles from Nowhere," Dwight Yoakam (Reprise)
10. "Ain't Going Down ('Til the Sun Comes Up)," Garth Brooks (Liberty)

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Q. Will Cyndi Lauper regain her former stardom?

Q. Why is Ross Perot so critical of President Clinton?

Q. Has the Duchess of York turned over a new leaf?

Q. Does Bo Derek have any films in the works?



Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York

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