



THE INDEPENDENT WAY



Indie Groove

GANG ACTIVITIES REPORT – National People's Gang, a very hip and hypnotic combo from somewhere in the suburbs, is winging its way to Toronto as one of five American bands who will represent the U.S. in the International Festival of Independent Music, a convention of alternative-music types, sponsored by our friends at Molson beer. A total of 125 bands from around the world will perform at the convention, which styles itself after the now-overgrown New Music Seminar in New York. The other American bands are **Electric Love** from Philadelphia, **Kroll** from Boston, **Smegma** from Portland, Ore., and the **Other Kids** from Madison, Wisc. The underdog NPG was chosen to represent L.A. after laying down the law in a battle of the bands at Bogart's in Long Beach. The secret of their success, insiders say, is a performance-art vocal style and the dy-no-mite rhythm section led by bassist Chuck Morris. And talk about timing – the band has a new album, *The Hard Swing*, coming out this week on Dr. Dream Records. World domination is just around the corner.



WIRE – Some kind of threat to American youth?

HEY, WHAT'S THE DEAL? – This is starting to tick me off. **Wire**, the pioneering post-punk Brits who've been bending minds and subverting expectations for more than ten years now, were recently denied a visa to perform in this country. This kind of treatment, in accordance with new Immigration Department regulations, is usually reserved for little-known foreign entertainers whose services might deprive American musicians of a needed gig. Yet **Wire** has been to the U.S. many times (as recently as this summer) and has a legion of fans who wouldn't simply go see an American band as a reasonable substitute. The same thing happened to the **Sugarcubes** earlier this year, as well as to countless other bands who are caught up in

Reagan-era red-tape while their fans across the country wait outside the club with tickets in hand. Write your congressman! And while you're at it, buy **Wire's** new album on Enigma or singer **Colin Newman's** new solo record on Restless instead of the latest **Bon Jovi** platter. That'll teach 'em!

CHILD STAR MAKES GOOD – You might know him as Cousin Oliver from *The Brady Bunch* or Ted Baxter's adopted son in *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, but his real name is **Robbie Rist**, the tiny John Denver look-alike who pretty much owned the American airwaves in the early '70s. For at least ten years now **Robbie** has been playing his brand of power-pop music in the L.A. clubs, and finally he has an album that documents his love for the classic hook. With Cleveland semi-legend **Paul Pope** (formerly of **Molkie Cole**), **Rist** co-anchors **Paul Pope, Robbie Rist and the Tower of Light Beer Rhythm Section**, whose debut album on Burbank Records is called *Here*. It's a slightly revved-up version of what **the Knack** or **the Raspberries** used to do. (**Rist** has an autographed photo of **Eric Carmen** on his living room wall!)

ARE YOU LISTENING? – Admirably eclectic **ROM Records** is readying *All-Ears Review, Volume 4*, for release this week. Like all of the *All-Ears* compilations, this one culls interesting material from a wide variety of adventurous indie performers in blues, jazz, rock, reggae and folk music. Among those represented on this installment are such alternative rock bands as **the Bonedaddys**, **the Cucumbers** and **Poi Dog Pondering**, reggae pioneer **Joe Higgs**, and saxman **Big Jay McNeely**.



ELY'S COMIN' – Joe Ely, the Texas roots rocker and longtime favorite of the critics, has a new album on **Hightone Records**, *Dig All Night*. His first effort on **Hightone**, *Lord of the Highway*, was the biggest seller in that label's history.

Keep the faith ...

Joe Williams

CASH BOX INDIE JAZZ ALBUMS

1	FACETS DOC SEVERINSEN (Amherst AMH 3319)	1 7	BASES LOADED BRIAN BROMBERG (Intimo 73325)	12 15
2	THE POWER OF SUGGESTION RICHARD ELLIOT (Intima 73321)	2 17	22 LAGUNA SUNDAY JIM DEVLIN (Novo 8809)	25 9
3	RAY CHARLES AND BETTY CARTER (Dunhill 039)	4 5	23 OPTICAL RACE TANGERINE DREAM (Private Music 2042)	DEBUT
4	THE CARMEN MCRAE - BETTY CARTER DUETS (Great American Music Hall/ Fantasy GAMH 2706)	3 5	24 MOSCOW NIGHT DAVE BRUBECK (Concord CJ 353)	24 11
5	GENIUS + SOUL = JAZZ RAY CHARLES (Dunhill 038)	7 5	25 LAY IT ON THE LINE SAM RINEY (Spindletop SPT 121)	18 15
6	THAT A PLENTY AL HIRT (Projazz/Intersound 659)	8 5	26 BASIE AND FRIENDS COUNT BASIE (Pablo 25218-0925)	29 7
7	KILIMANJARO THE RIPPINGTONS (Passport Jazz PJ 88042)	5 17	27 LIVE AT BIRDLAND WEST CARMEN MCCRAE (Concord CJ-342)	21 17
8	NO LONGER ONE TOM BROWN (Malaco Jazz MJ 1500)	6 17	28 EARLY SPRING ALPHONSE MOUZON (Optimism OP 6002)	22 17
9	5TH GEAR ROB MULLINS (Nova 8810)	13 11	29 TRIBUTE TO COUNT BASIE GENE HARRIS ALL-STAR BIG BAND (Concord CJ 337)	26 17
10	SEARCHING THE HEART TIM HEINTZ (TBA 236)	9 17	30 SALSA MEETS JAZZ TITO PUENTE AND HIS LATIN ENSEMBLE (Concord Picante CJP-354)	36 3
11	RIVER'S GONNA RISE PATRICK O'HEARN (Private Music 2029)	14 5	31 SAY WHAT YOU WANT BOB THOMPSON (Intima D1-73331)	28 17
12	DANCING IN THE DARK SONNY ROLLINS (Milestone M-9155)	10 17	32 EVENING STAR JOSHUA BREAKSTONE (Contemporary C-14040)	30 13
13	LIVING IN PARADISE FAITBURGER (Intima 73334)	19 3	33 BLUES FOR FRED JOE PASS (Pablo 2310-931)	DEBUT
14	SKYWALKERS GEORGE SHAW & JETSTREAM (TBA 234)	16 9	34 REVERENCE CHRISTOPHER HALLYDAY (RBI 402)	31 11
15	JUMP START RICK STRAUSS (Projazz/Intersound 667)	23 3	35 ONLY TRUST YOUR HEART TOOTS THIELMANS (Concord CJ-355)	DEBUT
16	LIVE JAZZ NANCY KELLY (Amherst 3317)	11 17	36 HARLEM BLUES DONALD BYRD (Landmark LLP-1516)4	32 17
17	THE TIDES OF TIME ROLAND VAZQUEZ (Soundwings SW 2106)	17 15	37 CRAZY RHYTHM AZYMUTH (Milestone M-9156)	33 17
18	STATE OF THE ART BOB FLORENCE (USA Music Group 589)	27 3	38 NIGHTWIND MIKE LAWRENCE (Optimism OP 3104)	34 17
19	FLYING HOME TERRY GIBBS DREAM BAND (Contemporary C-7654)	20 13	39 GAMALON (Amherst AMH 3318)	35 17
20	WHEN WE'RE ALONE FRANK POTENZA (TBA 235)	15 17	40 MAJOR CHANGES FRANK MORGAN & THE MCCOY TYNER TRIO (Contemporary C-14039)	37 17
21				

LABEL BREAKDOWN:

Each Label is followed by the number of albums that appear on this week's Indie Jazz Chart.

FANTASY	9
Contemporary	(3)
Milestone	(2)
GAMH	(1)
Landmark	(1)
Pablo	(2)
CONCORD	5
Picante	(1)
INTIMA	4
TBA	3
AMHERST	3
MOSS MUSIC	1
DUNHILL	2
NOVA	2
OPTIMISM	2
PROJAZZ/INTERSOUND	2
MALACO	1
PASSPORT	1

PRIVATE MUSIC	2
SOUNDWINGS	1
SPINDLETOP	1
USA MUSIC	1

THIS WEEK'S #1 DEBUT: OPTICAL RACE



Tangerine Dream