

Karrin Allyson lands her third top five title on Jazz Albums chart



# Charts

In Singles Minded: Selah rises to top of Christian Adult chart



SALES / AIRPLAY / TRENDS / ANALYSIS

## Velvet No Chart Softie

It has been a full year since a rock band stood at No. 1 on The Billboard 200. All of a sudden rock bands own half of the top 10, with supergroup **Velvet Revolver** leading the charge.

The band that contains three former **Guns N' Roses** members and one **Stone Temple Pilots** alumnus delivers an echo of those earlier groups' chart histories, as Velvet Revolver draws first-week sales of 256,000, a higher sum than was hinted by its opening-day numbers.



As mentioned here last week, the total by **Scott Weiland**, **Slash** and crew beats the best week of either former band's last studio album: STP's 98,000-unit start in 2003 or Guns'

190,000 copies in 1993. The start for Revolver's "Contraband" also tops STP's best week but falls shy of Guns' glory days.

Guns blew through 1.4 million copies in one week when its simultaneously released "Use Your Illusion" albums bowed in the chart's first two slots, with the chart-topping "Use Your Illusion II" piling up 770,000 of those. STP's biggest sum came in 1994, when "Purple" bowed at No. 1 with 252,000 sold.

## Over the Counter

By Geoff Mayfield  
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**ROCK ON:** Velvet Revolver finds plenty of company, as rock titles occupy four other slots in the top 10 of The Billboard 200, while the top 50 reveals career-best ranks for **PJ Harvey** (No. 3, 34,000 copies) and **Bad Religion** (No. 40, 27,000). Harvey, who played "Late Show With David Letterman" during the album's release week, had previously peaked at No. 42, while Bad Religion's high was No. 49.

A best by **311** enters at No. 7. That matches the rank of its last album, "Evolver," although at 87,000 copies, that 2003 set sold almost 24,000 more in its first week than this one does.

"Vans Warped 2004 Tour Compilation" begins at No. 8, by far the best showing of samplers culled from that concert series (61,000). The 2002 "Vans Warped" album peaked at No. 55, while the one from last year's tour entered at No. 21. **The Early November**, **Simple Plan** and **Bad Religion** are among the acts on this year's edition.

Almost 32% of the "Vans Warped" sales came from a bundling with ticket sales. But unlike the current **Prince** deal, the consumer had the option to forgo the CD.

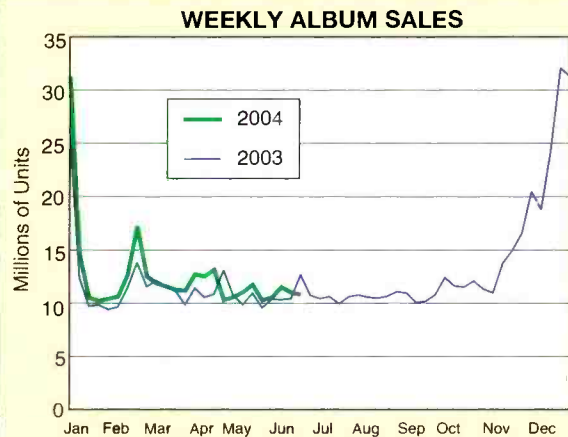
And don't get the idea that label **Side One Dummy** got inspired by all the recent yammering about Prince's "Musicalogy," because about 37% of opening-week sales for last year's edition were also tied to ticket sales.

Two incumbents also represent rock in the top 10, with **Hoobastank** holding at No. 6 (down 13%) and **Slipknot**

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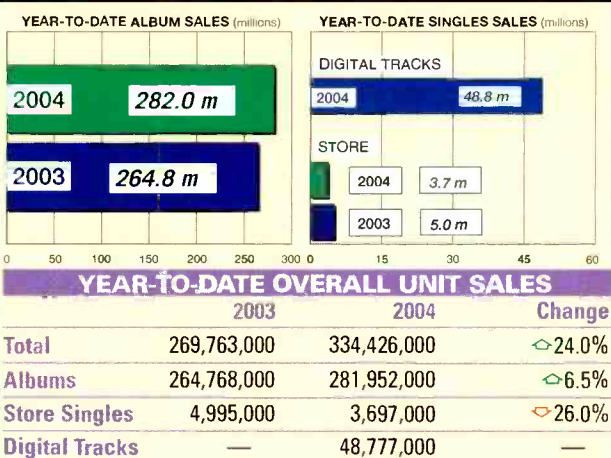
## Market Watch

A Weekly National Music Sales Report



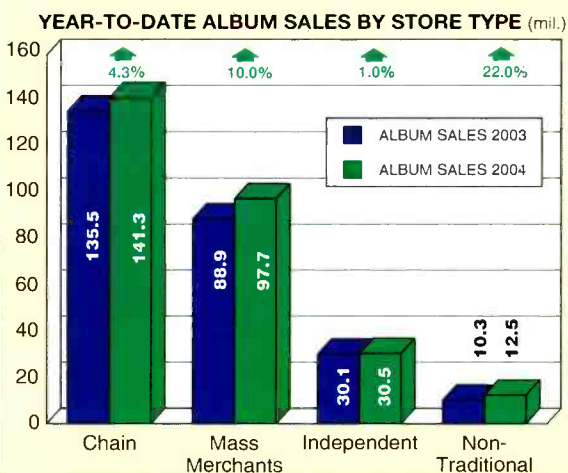
WEEKLY UNIT SALES

	Albums	Store Singles	Digital Tracks
This Week	10,849,000	136,000	2,149,000
Last Week	11,054,000	142,000	2,307,000
Change	◊ 1.9%	◊ 4.2%	◊ 6.8%
This Week 2003	12,726,000	903,000	—
Change	◊ 14.7%	◊ 84.9%	—



YEAR-TO-DATE SALES BY ALBUM FORMAT

	2003	2004	Change
CD	255,255,000	275,662,000	◊ 8.0%
Cassette	8,685,000	5,445,000	◊ 37.3%
Other	828,000	845,000	◊ 2.1%



For week ending 6/13/04. Rounded figures.

Compiled from a national sample of retail store and rack sales reports collected and provided by

Nielsen SoundScan

## Usher Owns Top Two

For the second time this year, one artist has a lock on the top two positions on The Billboard Hot 100. **Usher's** "Burn" (**LaFace**) has enough heat to remain at No. 1 for a sixth week, while follow-up "Confessions Part II" leaps 5-2.

Usher's monopoly on the top two spots comes 19 weeks after labelmate **OutKast** did the same. For an eight-week period that began Dec. 20, 2003, and ended Feb. 7, "Hey Ya!" was No. 1 and "The Way You Move" was No. 2.

With "Confessions" occupying the runner-up spot, it's more likely than ever that Usher will succeed himself in pole position—again. "Burn" replaced "Yeah!" so Usher would have three back-to-back No. 1 hits on the Hot 100.

The only other act to have three adjacent chart-toppers was **the Beatles**. In 1964, "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "She Loves You" and "Can't Buy Me Love" kept the Fab Four at No. 1 for 14 consecutive weeks.

Usher has already gone beyond that 14-week mark. This issue, he is No. 1 for the 18th week in a row (12 weeks for "Yeah!" and six weeks for "Burn"). That is the longest any artist has been No. 1 on a *Billboard* pop singles chart in one run.

In the rock era, the record is held by **Boyz II Men**, with two 16-week runs. In 1994, "I'll Make Love to You" was on top for 14 weeks, followed by the first two weeks of the reign of "On Bended Knee." In 1995, "One Sweet Day," recorded with **Mariah Carey**, ruled for 16 weeks.

## Chart Beat

By Fred Bronson  
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Counting back to the introduction of charts in 1940, band-leader **Francis Craig** was No. 1 for 17 weeks in 1947 on the airplay chart of the day with "Near You."

There's more Usher chart news: "Confessions Part II" moves 2-1 on Rhythmic Top 40, displacing "Burn" after four weeks. Usher now has six No. 1s on this chart, more than any other artist. Knocked down to second place are **Mariah Carey**, **Nelly**, **P. Diddy** and **TLC** with five each.

Usher is the first lead male artist to succeed himself at No. 1 on the Rhythmic chart. The last time an act knocked itself out of pole position was when Carey's "Fantasy" gave way to "One Sweet Day" the week of Dec. 16, 1995.

**'SOMEBODY' TO LOVE:** **Reba McEntire** collects her first top 10 hit on Hot Country Singles & Tracks since "I'm a Survivor" peaked at No. 3 in 2001. The 13-10 shift of "Somebody" (**MCA**) is significant, as it moves McEntire into the top 10 among artists with the most top 10 songs on this chart. She now has 53, which ties her with **Waylon Jennings** for 10th place. The only female artist with more country top 10s is **Dolly Parton**, with 55.

**GENE THERAPY:** It has been a little more than a quarter-century since **Gene Simmons'** first solo album peaked at No. 22. It was one of four solo LPs that each individual member of **Kiss** released at the same time. Simmons returns this issue with his second solo effort. "\*\*\*\*hole" (**Simmons/Sanctuary**) opens at No. 86 on The Billboard 200.