



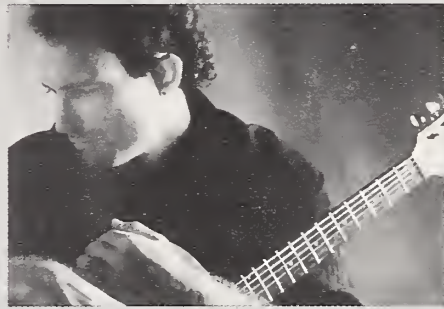
THE INDEPENDENT WAY



Indie Groove

POI OH POI—It took a couple hip Midwesterners to open my eyes, but once I finally got over the name and listened to the new **Poi Dog Pondering** album, I was hooked. Then when I was offered a chance to see them open for my close personal friends **They Might Be Giants** at a glamorous Hollywood night spot, I remembered why I went to the Rock Critic Institute in the first place. As it turns out, Poi Dog Pondering stole the show, which is saying quite a bit, since the Giants are formidable showmen and a relentless hit-making machine. PDP's brand of world-beat stew was even fresher than it is on their Texas Hotel debut, a happy-go-lucky blend of Irish, Hawaiian, African and Anglo pop elements that recalls Camper Van Beethoven at their most accessible. On this night their floating line-up featured six musicians (there are ten on the record) and such instruments as penny whistle, accordion, vibes, fiddle, mandolin and a guitar that was hooked up to an electric amplification device. Poi Dog Pondering is from Hawaii by way of Austin, Tex., but tonight they proved themselves citizens of a world without musical boundaries.

has not chucked it all; he is still involved in public-interest advocacy, but his main priority for the last seven years has been writing and recording his politically-astute songs and stories. Says Small, "The law studies showed me how excluded and routinely disenfranchised people were. Folk music showed me the excitement of sharing music as a community resource, and as a means to take back the power ... Lawyers tend to talk only to other lawyers. As a musician, I interact with a great variety of people who are active at the grass-roots level doing very important work that tends to be underrated." His new album is *I Will Stand Fast*.



FRED SMALL

LAST TRAIN TO PLUGSVILLE—Frontier Records' **Thin White Rope** finished their two-month European tour with a Dec. 15 gig at a music festival in Moscow. In fact, the band took their desert-fried guitar psychedelia to five different Soviet cities before capping off their tour at the Moscow festival. Thin White Rope is the first American independent rock band to play in the U.S.S.R. ... Profile Records has released an indispensable compilation album to document the biggest year in rap history. The double album is *Mr. Magic's Rap Attack, Vol. 4* and features performances by **Public Enemy**, **EPMD**, **Run-D.M.C.**, **Salt-N-Pepa** and many others who have made this year so hip-hoppin' ... Our favorite garage rockers, the **Fuzztones**, have scored a big endorsement contract with Rickenbacker guitars, the company whose beautiful instruments gave the Beatles their sheen and the Byrds their jangle. The big winner in the deal was Fuzztone John Carlucci, who bagged a special bass with flashing lights, of which only two were made. The other such instrument belongs to Who bassist John Entwistle, and if that's not an endorsement, I don't know what is.

Keep the Faith

Joe Williams



POI DOG PONDERING

THE BLUEST OF THE BLUE—The annual W.C. Handy Awards for the best blues performers was a coup for Alligator Records, the roots-conscious Chicago indy. **Koko Taylor** was named Female Blues Entertainer of the Year for the tenth time. And Alligator's **Albert Collins** was named Instrumentalist of the Year. It was Collins' eighth Handy award. Collins also has a Grammy Award on his mantel to go with the priceless memories of filming a wine-cooler commercial with **Bruce Willis**.

LOVE IS THE LAW—Flying Fish recording artist Fred Small says that a lot of his publicity starts with the angle "lawyer chucks it all to become folk singer." In fact, he

CASH BOX INDIE JAZZ ALBUMS

1	LIVING IN PARADISE FATTBURGER (Intimo 73334)	1	13	20	NEVERLAND SUZANNE CIANI (Private Music 2036)	22	7
2	STATE OF THE ART BOB FLORENCE (USA Music Group 589)	2	13	21	GENIUS + SOUL = JAZZ RAY CHARLES (Dunhill 038)	18	15
3	FACETS DOC SEVERINSEN (Amherst AMH 3319)	3	17	22	EAST TO WES EMILY REMLER (Concord CJ-356)	27	5
4	RAY CHARLES AND BETTY CARTER (Dunhill 039)	5	15	23	HAVE A GOOD TIME RUTH BROWN (Fantasy 9661)	25	9
5	SALSA MEETS JAZZ TITO PUENTE AND HIS LATIN ENSEMBLE (Concord Picante CJP-354)	6	13	24	DANCING IN THE DARK SONNY ROLLINS (Milestone M-9155)	24	27
6	OPTICAL RACE TANGERINE DREAM (Private Music 2042)	7	11	25	YOU'RE GONNA HEAR FROM ME BILL EVANS TRIO (Milestone 9164)	26	7
7	THE BEAUTY OF IT ALL CARLOS REYES (TBA 240)	8	9	26	DEEP BREAKFAST RAY LYNCH (Music West MW-102)	28	7
8	THAT A PLENTY AL HIRT (Projazz/Intersound 659)	4	15	27	A REAL SWINGER FLIP PHILLIPS (Concord CJ-358)	30	5
9	BOLIVAR JOHN BOLIVAR (Optimism 3204)	9	9	28	7TH AVENUE JONATHAN BUTLER (Projazz 675)	29	7
10	THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF FLIM & THE BB'S (DMP 462)	10	9	29	REUNION MEL TORME AND THE MARTY PACH DEK-TETTE (Concord CJ 360)	34	3
11	ONLY TRUST YOUR HEART TOOTS THIELMANS (Concord CJ-355)	11	11	30	KILIMANJARO THE RIPPINGTONS (Passport Jazz PJ 88042)	19	27
12	PASSION FLOWER ALVIN HAYES (TBA 238)	16	7	31	ALL MY TOMORROWS GRANT GEISSMAN (TBA 241)	35	7
13	BLUES FOR FRED JOE PASS (Pablo 2310-931)	12	11	32	BASIE AND FRIENDS COUNT BASIE (Pablo 25218-0925)	20	17
14	THE POWER OF SUGGESTION RICHARD ELLIOT (Intimo 73321)	13	27	33	JUMP START RICK STRAUSS (Projazz/Intersound 667)	31	13
15	THE CARMEN MCRAE - BETTY CARTER DUETS (Great American Music Hall/ Fantasy GAMH 2706)	15	15	34	EVOLUTION PHIL WOODS LITTLE BIG BAND (Concord CJ-361)	DEBUT	
16	SOCA ME NICE MONGO SANTIMARIA (Concord Picante CJP-362)	23	5	35	DREAMS OF LOVE TONY DAGRADI (Rounder 2071)	DEBUT	
17	THE TRAVELER BRANDON FIELDS (Nova 8811)	17	9	36	NO LONGER ONE TOM BROWN (Malaco Jazz MJ 1500)	32	27
18	CHAMELEON DAYS YANNI (Private Music 2043)	21	7	37	5TH GEAR ROB MULLINS (Nova 8810)	33	2
19	RIVER'S GONNA RISE PATRICK O'HEARN (Private Music 2029)	14	15	38	SKYWALKERS GEORGE SHAW & JETSTREAM (TBA 234)	36	15
				39	FLYING HOME TERRY GIBBS DREAM BAND (Contemporary C-7654)	37	23
				40	MOSCOW NIGHT DAVE BRUBECK (Concord CJ 353)	38	2

LABEL BREAKDOWN:

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

FANTASY	7
Milestone	(2)
Contemporary	(1)
GAMH	(1)
Pablo	(2)
CONCORD	8
Picante	(2)
PRIVATE MUSIC	4
TBA	4
PROJAZZ/INTERSOUND	3
DUNHILL	2
INTIMA	2
NOVA	2
AMHERST	1
OPTIMISM	1
DMP	1
MALACO	1
MUSIC WEST	1
PASSPORT	1
ROUNDER	1
USA MUSIC	1

THIS WEEK'S #1 DEBUT:

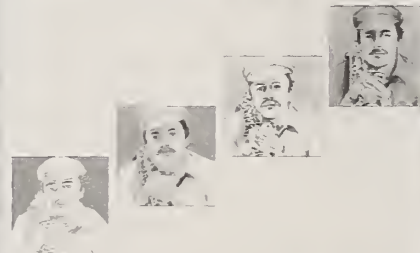
LIVING IN PARADISE

FATTBURGER

THIS WEEK'S #1 DEBUT:

EVOLUTION

PHIL WOODS' LITTLE BIG BAND



Phil Woods Little Big Band