

## U.K./LONDON CALLING

By David Courtney



Crash Test Dummies have the U.K. humming along to "Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm"

**THE NEWS:** Nirvana fans in the U.K. rushed for souvenirs of Kurt Cobain. Tickets for the band's cancelled European tour were selling for \$150 each. Sales of all Nirvana albums have rocketed since the singer's death. However, MCA announced this week that they have put a hold on all future releases, including the new single "Pennyroyal Tea."

A new single featuring the late Mick Ronson entitled "Don't Look Down" is scheduled for release next month. I had the pleasure of working with Mick many years ago; he was a great guy and I know he will be truly missed.

**THE PRICE OF FAME:** They say everything has a price. Well, that may well be true, but for the life of me I cannot understand why anybody would pay four times over the odds for a ticket to see Barbra Streisand in concert (no disrespect to Ms. Streisand, who is one of the greats). The tickets were on sale for 250 (pounds) and are now changing hands at 1,000 (pounds). This will be Streisand's first U.K. concert appearance and is described by Columbia as being "The Event Of The Decade."

**BLACK SABBATH'S** Tony Iommi, Geezer Butler and vocalist Tony Martin reunited for a four-date British mini-tour. After consultation with their fans, the band decided to include both old and new material in their set.

**UNDER PRESSURE:** Apparently Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder is having a tough time coping with the pressures of heading up the outfit. Vedder was one of the guest artists who appeared at Roger Daltrey's Carnegie Hall concert and was to be included on the soon-to-be-released live album but, according to Daltrey, Pearl Jam's record company, Epic, refused permission at the 11th hour.

Mark Andrews, son of late Rolling Stones guitarist Brian Jones, is to appear in a film about his father called *Who Killed Christopher Robin*. Mark is to appear as his grandfather in the movie. Sounds interesting....

**LONG TIME NO SEE:** It's good to see Chrissie Hynde back in full swing with the Pretenders. The new single entitled "I'll Stand By You" is getting heavy radio play and is sure to go Top 10. As a fan I'm really looking forward to hearing the album, due in early May.

**GO-AHEAD FOR U2 INTERACTIVE ALBUM:** After three months of meetings between the band and Philips Interactive Media, it was finally agreed to proceed with plans to make a fully interactive U2 album. Bono and the mates will work with the software company Electronic Sound & Picture. The album is planned to be released before Christmas.

**TOP OF THE MONEY CHART:** Richard Branson's position as the music industry's wealthiest entrepreneur was reaffirmed in the Sunday Times survey of the U.K.'s music industry multi-millionaires. Branson came in #1 with a mere 895 million pounds, and poor old Andrew Lloyd Webber made #2 with 300 million pounds. Robert Stigwood had not progressed from last year's figure of 150 million pounds and was third in line...never mind, Bob, "Grease" is still the word.

**LONDON CLUB SCENE:** I have it on very good authority from a man called Dennis Lewis, pirate radio D.J. and brother of boxing champ Lennox Lewis, that the new music to hit the clubs in the U.K. will be "Jungle Music." This, I am told, is a cross between Hard Core and Ragga...I have to admit that it's all Greek to me!

**ON THE ROAD:** Bryan Adams is here in May. Diana Ross will be performing three dates at Wembley in June. Dwight Yoakam is here in June. Chris De Burgh is doing seven dates in September. Meat Loaf is scheduled for a 12-date tour in November.

**THE SINGLES CHART:** One of the most talented artists in the world has to be Prince, who is at #1 in the U.K. this week with "The Most Beautiful Girl In The World." Take That, with last week's #1, is down at #2. Toni Di Bart is at #3 with "The Real Thing," and Crash Test Dummies are at #5 with "Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm" (catchy title, eh?). Bruce Springsteen's "Streets Of Philadelphia" is down to #6. A unique reggae version of The Mamas And The Papas' old hit "Dedicated To The One I Love" by Bitty McLean is up from #12 to #8, and Salt N' Pepa with En Vogue are down one place from #11 to #12 with their hit "Whatta Man."

**U.K. ALBUM CHART:** Pink Floyd's *The Division Bell* is the most successful album the band has had in the U.K. since *The Wall* and has gone Platinum in just two weeks. I foresee this staying at the #1 slot for quite a while. *The Very Best Of Marvin Gaye* is up from #6 to #4. Ace Of Base are down this week from #3 to #5 with *Happy Nation*. Straight in at #9 is *Haddaway The Album* by Haddaway. Country music is beginning to get a foothold here, and to prove it that good ol' boy Garth Brooks is on his way up the U.K. album charts from #47 to #35 with *In Pieces* (see more on Brooks on page 20). And last but not least, The Backbeat Band are up from #52 to #39 with *Backbeat (OST)*. If you haven't seen the movie, rush out now and see it.

## NEWS FROM JAPAN



From Rock & Roll Heaven to Armed Forces Radio: (l-r) Oldies DJ Jim Pewter and Polydor recording artist Jimmy Angel. The "Jim Pewter Show" airs in 100 countries around the world, and Angel, a '60s bopper who lives in Tokyo, was Pewter's special guest two days back-to-back. Selections from Angel's album *From Rock & Roll Heaven* were played, which features the Elvis Presley Band with production by Owen and Harold Bradley.

**THE SEVENTH BLUES** (B'z, BMG Rooms) and *Red Hill* (Chage & Aska, Pony Canyon) have been certified Quadruple Platinum each by RIAJ (Record Industries Association of Japan) for March '94 certification in the album section. Following them, *Hoonetsu Eno Akashi* (Yutaka Ozaki, Sony) acquired million-selling status and Platinum went to *Cloudy Heart* (Kouji Kikkawa, Toshiba EMI). Five titles were named Gold. They are: *Hide Your Face* (Hide, MCA Victor); *After Tone III* (Takako Okamura, Fun House); *Lindy Wingding* (Lindberg, Tokuma Japan); *Voice Peaks* (Hoshi Nakanishi, Nippon Columbia) and *Julia I* (Julia Matsuda, Mycal Humming Bird). All are in Domestic Repertoires.

As for International Repertoires *Now 1* (Queen, Toshiba EMI) made Triple Platinum. Platinum went to *Vamp Ahead* (Mr. Big, EastWest Japan) and *Appetite For Destruction* (Guns N' Roses, MCA Victor) while Gold went to *True Blue* (Madonna, Warner Music Japan), *Like A Virgin*