

TICKERTAPE

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band's reunion tour last summer... Ex-Wham member **Andrew Ridgely**, and ex-Bangle **Susanna Hoffs** should each have solo discs out before summer... And the **New Kids on the Block** will have some new musical product available for your listening pleasure sometime in May.

A CHANG IS GONNA COME: **Gary Chang** has been signed by producer **Patrick McCormick** to compose the musical score for Corsair Pictures' *Shock to the System*, scheduled for a Spring release. Chang will be joined by the **Turtle Island Quartet** for the production. Chang has previously worked on the soundtracks to *Electric Dreams*, *The Breakfast Club* and appeared on a *Windham Hill Sampler*.

FORTUNATE SON: The **National Association of Independent Record Distributors and Manufacturers (NAIRD)** has announced the recipients of the NAIRD Borad of Trustees Hall of Fame Awards for 1990. This year's inductees are Fantasy Recording Group **Creedence Clearwater Revival** and **George Hocutt**, owner and CEO of California Record Distributors, Inc. The annual awards are presented each year to one recording artist or group and one business person in recognition of their lasting contributions to the independent recording industry.

BUCKS UP, CD'S WAY UP, CASSETTES STEADY, LP'S SINKING LIKE A STONE: That's a thumbnail description of the RIAA's recently released 1989 sales and shipment figures. 1989



NO, I'M THE DJ, HE'S THE RAPPER: DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince made TV history recently when they were the first rappers ever to perform on *Late Night With David Letterman*. The duo did "Jazzy's Groove" before sitting down and, um, rapping with Dave.

set an all-time record for units shipped (800.74 million, up 5% from 1988), with a \$6.36 billion tally, up 3.35% from 1988. As to the breakdown: CD sales rose by 38.42% (207.2 million units), cassettes stayed about even (446.2 million units) and vinyl dropped another 50% to a lowly total of 34.6 million units shipped...compared that to the 341.3 million LPs that were shipped in 1978. Vinyl, (sniff) we hardly knew ya.

NO, NOT BOSTON, AUSTIN: **The Austin Music Awards**, based on an *Austin Chronicle* readers poll, were doled out last week, with **Stevie Ray Vaughan** walking off with Musician of the Year, Musician of the Decade, Album of the Decade (*Texas Flood*), Single of the Year, Album of the Year, and a cut-rate home delivery of the *Chronicle*. Oh, there were a few awards left for the likes of the **Fabulous Thunderbirds** (Band of the Decade), **W.C. Clark** (Hall of Fame, Best Soul Band, Best Blues Band), **Poi Dog Pondering** (Band of the Year, Best New Music Band, Best EP), **Bouffant Jellyfish** (Best New Band, Most Disgusting Name), and the like. Poi Dog Pondering, **Townes Van Zandt**, **James McMurtry** and **Nanci Griffith** were among the performers.

NO, NOT AUSTIN, BOSTON: **The Boston Music Awards** are set to be distributed at Beantown's Wang Center for the Performing Arts, April 19. Tickets are on sale now.

Lee Jeske and Robb Moore

SHOCK OF THE NEW

NEW RELEASES, new releases, new releases. Did you ever think that perhaps the music industry ought to designate one month a year—ultimately the month when it starts to warm up and you'd rather have class on the lawn—as the month when there will be no new releases, so everyone can catch up on the old-new releases?

I didn't think so. It's an idea, though...

□ **THE MISSION UK:** *Carved in Sand* (Mercury/PolyGram)

Wayne Hussey is a mystic in dark shades, a guy who has read far too many books about fantastical places like Avalon, a modern day Lancelot, one of the few true romantics. Perhaps he's a bit silly sometimes, but this guy can write music. Whether it's on a grand scale, like the impassioned "Deliverance" or the phoenix-rising-from-the-ashes "Belief"; sad-sweet, like "Butterfly on a Wheel"; or chilling, on the one topical song, "Amelia" (which deals with child abuse); this boy attaches chords to emotions in a way that evokes an unconditional response. Given the right kind of push, *Carved in Sand* could earn the Mission the same kind of devotion Stateside that the band has enjoyed in the UK since Hussey and bassist Craig Adams split with Sisters of Mercy to form their own band.



The Mission UK

□ **NOISE UNIT:** *Deceit/Struktur* (Wax Trax 9102)

Noise Unit is another one of those wacky Wax Trax side projects, this time assembled by Bill Leeb from Front Line Assembly and Marc Verhaeghen from the Klinik. It's weird, funky-dancey sort of stuff, few words on "Deceit," can't understand them, doesn't matter. Dig it anyway. The b-side sounds a little more familiar. It reminds me of this club I used to go to in Washington D.C. called Poseurs. There were only certain songs all the arrogant people in black would get up and dance to; this could have been one of them.

□ **SOCIAL DISTORTION:** *Social Distortion* (Epic ET46055)

One of L.A.'s premier punk bands is back with its first major-label release (the last Social Distortion record, *Prison Bound*, came out on Restless) and it's nice to know that this part of the L.A. scene, the part some of us still believe is the only L.A. scene, is not dead. This is not the Social Distortion of the late-'70s, of course. Over the years they have become much more melodic, much cleaner, and singer Mike Ness has developed his songwriting skills exponentially, but the rawness that defined all the three-chord guitar bands we knew and loved is still there. Love songs like "Let It Be Me" are angry rather than plaintive, and there are a few autobiographical songs ("Drug Train" for instance) that are blunt, to-the-point and poignant in an unemotional, aggressive sort of way. This is not to say it's all serious: two of the best are "She's a Knockout" and the tongue-in-cheek "Sick Boys," because I've seen these boys a million times. One word of caution: *Social Distortion* has to be played loud, so forget about the headphones.

Stay Tuned.

Karen Woods