## Cowboy Junkies delight with sad charm

Cowboy Junkies at Berklee Performance Center last night.

## By GREG REIBMAN

There were no sudden mood swings, no wild abandon, no ear-shattering solos and no sur-prises at the Cowboy Junkies' concert last night at the Berklee Performance Center.

Instead there was just one

soulful country ballad after an-

That's the way this Torontobased band likes it.

One year ago, the group had an underground hit with their tender cover of Lou Reed's "Sweet Jane." Last night's soldout show — and their new record, "The Caution Horses" — establishes Michael Timmins' songwriting talents and con-firms that his group likes

playing at mid-tempo only.

Musically these space Cowboys owe a debt to the Grateful Dead, John Coltrane and every country music artist (including opener Townes Van Zandt) that

has ever penned a sad song.

Their charms are subtle;
their approach is low-key but also somewhat pretentious. And it's hard to figure out how such a young band can come up with much sad material.

Even their set had a backporch hominess. At center stage was a small table, white table cloth, a rose, candle, wine glass and chair for singer Margo Timmins.

The other Cowboys - Margo's brothers Michael (guitar) and Peter (drums), and Alan Anton (bass) — sat or stood around in a semicircle. Four part-time members added lovely flourishes of accordion, fid-

COWBOY ROCK: The Cowboy Junkies are still riding the success of their first album, 'The Trinity Sessions.

dle, harmonica and slide guitar. Margo was captivating and charming. Her delivery offered the right balance of purity, lonesomeness and defiance.

Songsmith Townes Van Zandt also makes a career in reflection. But the gravelvoiced Texan's bittersweet tales stem from years of hard traveling, hard drinking, hard loving, hard luck and hard work.

## New Kids join KISS blowout

New Kids on the Block, Perfect Gentlemen and Rick Wes have been added to the all-star line-up of performers scheduled for KISS-108's 11th anniversary

party at Great Woods on June 2. They will be part of a seg-ment dedicated to local talent producer Maurice Starr, the mastermind behind all three acts. KISS-108 management added that still more names will be announced for the show. - DEAN JOHNSON

Dolly Parton is negotiating the development of a Dollywood Theme Park in Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan.
The concept calls for

Dollywood II to be one of as many as seven theme parks in what is seen as one of the largest vacation destinations in the world.

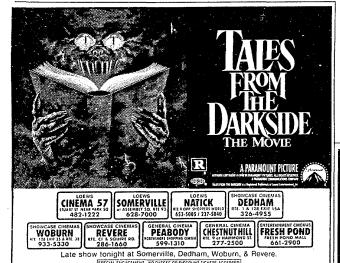
John Candy will star in the \$18 million comedy "Over My Dead Body" to begin production this fall for Dino De Laurentiis Communications. Eugene Levy

is the director.
Written by Babaloo Mandel
and Lowell Ganz, "Over My
Dead Body" will be directed by Eugene Levy, who also contributed to the screenplay.

Canadian rocker Bryan dams has once again pushed back the release date for a follow-up to his 1987 smash "Into the Fire" LP. Adams initially intended on getting the album out by early '89, then September 1990, the service of the service o '89, then spring '90, and is now aiming for late October or November.

A&M Records reps explain that Adams scrapped all the work he was doing with producer Steve Lillywhite (of U2 fame), switched to producer Mutt Lange (of The Cars), but hasn't been able to come up with the sound he's looking for.

Sting is at his home in England rehearsing and writing songs, readying material he hopes to bring to the studio later this year.



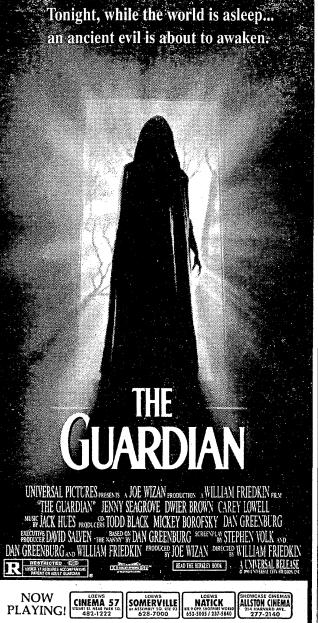
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