

& OUT THE OTHER



MICHAEL WARD, LONG BEACH, CA

The Bob Dylan Report

OL' BOB WILL BE BUSY this year; this month he auditioned musicians for a band which he'll take on tour to Tokyo in February, Australia in March, a U.S. recording studio in April, and a U.S. or Western European tour (Bob is undecided) after that. Meanwhile, his first film, which he wrote, produced, directed, stars in and distributes, *Renaldo and Clara*, opens right about now in New York, Minneapolis and Los Angeles.

Overdoing It

COLUMBIA PICTURES bought screen rights to the hit musical *Annie*, but won't turn it into a flick until 1981, by which time star Andrea McArdle will be too old, but that's only slightly tragic. What's really tragic: Columbia paid \$9.4 million for the rights, the most ever paid for any property (runner-up: \$5 million for *Chorus Line*). That's just for the use of the name, words, and music, folks; that doesn't include salaries, sets, costumes and other incidentals. And for a one-song musical, at that.

LARRY FLYNT, THE OL' HUSTLER, has purchased the *Los Angeles Free Press*, which he intends to turn into a national weekly cross between the *Village Voice* and *National Enquirer*. First edition, which should be on the stands any minute, will be a special Kennedy assassination issue. Then there'll be a few weeks regrouping time, and then the national version on a regular basis. Flynt has been pouring considerable money into the faded rag, and hopes to overcome the range of emotions, from apathy to downright hostility, that have greeted the *Free Press*'s most recent incarnation as a low-circulation sex tabloid with a bit of third-rate reporting thrown in. Can't say that Larry doesn't have a sense of humor: he also just bought a weekly in Plains, GA.

NO WONDER BOOKS ARE SO EXPENSIVE: Candice Bergen received \$250,000 (that's right, a quarter of a million) from Random House to write her autobiography.

MARIANNE FAITHFULL IS MAKING A FILM comeback. Some of us recall, under duress, that Marianne starred, several years ago, in the easily forgotten *Naked Under Leather* (originally titled *Girl on a Motorcycle*), and before that she played Ophelia to Nicol

Williamson's filmed *Hamlet*. Since then she's had trouble with men (ditched by Mick Jagger) and drugs; now she has trouble with movies. Seems she plays the pregnant mother of Sex Pistol Sid Vicious in *Who Killed Bambi?*; in this case the son is also the father. *Bambi* was to be directed by Russ (Vixens) Meyer, but he's been fired from the project.

SPEAKING OF PUNKERS, The Dead Boys played a memorable set at the Starwood in Los Angeles recently. Lead singer Stiv Bators wore crotchless pants and funny underwear, writhing through his usual pained vocals, whereupon a female member of the audience tried to remove his funny underwear and molest Stiv in mid-moan. She was hauled away before anything serious came up.

Casting Pearls & Swine

ON YOUR KNEES, DIAMOND! Neil, that is, who's apparently still smarting over the fact that he wasn't chosen for the lead in *Lenny* or *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. Diamond's latest attempt to become a movie star involves his plan to feature himself in a remake of *The Jazz Singer*. Al Jolson told us that we "ain't heard nothin' yet." This time, we've heard enough already.

EAGLES' MANAGER IRV AZOFF, bowing in the movie biz as producer of *FM*, flick that takes *Car Wash* (or *Grand Hotel*?) to a radio station, is hedging his bets. In addition to actors Michael Brandon, Eileen Brennan, Alex Karras, Cleavon Little, Cassie Yates and Martin Mull, Azoff has included a concert sequence by his client, Jimmy Buffett; a title number by his client, Steely Dan; and more live footage, by Linda Ronstadt, who is — amazing! — not an Irving Azoff client. There are, apparently, no Eagles and no Dan Fogelberg (more Azoff clients), but who would recognize them anyway?

MARY TYLER MOORE IS COMING BACK to television in a weekly series next fall, but not as Mary Richards. She insists, and we have little reason to doubt, that the format for her return has not been chosen yet.

BOB HOPE WILL BE THE ONE and only host of the 50th Academy Award celebration April 3 (and imagine how soggy it can get when Hollywood celebrates Oscar's golden anniversary!). This will be the 23rd Hope

appearance at an Oscar ceremony, his ninth solo host job. Lay in a good supply of nerve gas.

JANE FONDA, JACK LEMMON AND MICHAEL DOUGLAS will star in *Eyewitness*, about a television reporter and crew in a nuclear power station... Arnold Schwarzenegger was signed by director/writer John Milius to play *Conan*, the weirdo armor/chains/whips conquerer of pulp fiction... Director Sam Peckinpah will make his acting debut in *China 9-Liberty 37*, a western love story... and although *Grease* hasn't even been released yet, a sequel is already being prepared, called *Summer School*. Meanwhile, *Grease* star John Travolta will make a film with Lily Tomlin in which he plays a delivery boy involved in the drug scene and Lily a bored Beverly Hills housewife.

The Jungfrau Does Not Resemble Pike's Peak, Stanley

STANLEY KUBRICK'S NEXT PICTURE, *The Shining*, a supernatural thriller dealing with e.s.p., stars Jack Nicholson and Shelley Duvall and will be shot in London and Switzerland. The story's set in Colorado, but director Kubrick (an American) doesn't want to leave Europe.

Word of Mouth

QUOTE-OF-THE-MONTH (movie division): "Even your most intelligent people go to the movies to escape, not to ingest information that they have to put together in their heads. I know that's true of me. If I were an audience and not part of the craft, I probably would never see Bergman movies or Zeffirelli, or Fellini or Costa-Gavras. I'd probably just see Irwin Allen disaster movies and Lucas films." — Steve Spielberg, director of *Jaws* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, in *New West*.

QUOTE-OF-THE-MONTH (music division): "Hot Tuna would play for four hours and the audience would fall asleep. Then the music would get loud, the audience would wake up, applaud in the middle of a song, and go back to sleep." — Papa John Creach, explaining why he left to form his own band.

QUOTE-OF-THE-YEAR (but it's only January): Barbra Streisand's *homme fatal*, Jon

Peters, the former hairdresser who just signed a production and talent acquisition pact with CBS Records and is finishing production of the film *Eyes*, claimed "I'm the Muhammad Ali of the movie business."

Loony Tunes

BURTON CUMMINGS' SOLO CAREER since he left the Guess Who hasn't taken off the way he'd like, and Bachman-Turner Overdrive seems to have bitten the dust. Cummings and his former Guess Who mate Randy Bachman have been working together on some projects. There's no truth to the rumor, apparently, that they'll form a new band and call it the Guess Why.

ROBERT GORDON'S NEXT ALBUM, due soon, will be titled *Fresh Fish Special*. Dazzle your friends with this trivia: the title comes from what fellow-prisoners called Elvis Presley's haircut in *Jailhouse Rock*. Really.

NOBODY SEEMS TO HAVE POINTED OUT, or noticed, that the "man" on Joni Mitchell's new album is Joni herself in blackface. Look at the hands and cheekbones, if you don't believe us.

LOOK FOR A RINGO STARR TV special this May, described as a book musical based on *The Prince and the Pauper*. Taping is scheduled to begin mid-February. The show'll be on NBC.

LED ZEPPELIN PEOPLE are denying the rumor, from reputable sources, that the band has fired most of its road crew and is well on the way to — at last — retiring from live performance.

Spare Us

PETER BOGDANOVICH, EDITING *At Long Last Love* and *Nickelodeon* for TV showings, swears that this time he's going to get them right. We'll see (actually, we probably won't bother to watch...). Meantime, the aging wunderkind is working on a melodrama, *Saint Jack*, to be filmed largely in Singapore. Good news: Cybill Shepherd isn't in it.

FRANK CAPRA, JR., WHOSE FATHER directed classics like *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, is not trudging in his father's footsteps. Junior is producing *Born Again*, based on Charles Colson's book.

BAD NEWS: NBC renewed *CHiPs*.

GOOD NEWS: ABC cancelled *The San Pedro Beach Bums*.