

& OUT THE OTHER

News from Lucasville

REVENGE OF THE JEDI will feature Alec Guinness as Obi Wan Kenobi after all; in the land of Lucas, death isn't quite so permanent. When *Jedi*, (which will reportedly tie up all loose ends from the previous pix) is finished, work will begin on the next trilogy — parts 1, 2 and 3. As every *Star Wars* fan must know, *Star Wars*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Revenge of the Jedi* comprise the middle three of nine parts — 4, 5 and 6. However — there may yet be a way to put youthful versions of Princess Leia, Han Solo and Luke Skywalker in the next trilogy, in "prequel" form.

Bad news: there won't be a sequel to *Raiders of the Lost Ark* until 1984.

Deals, Schmeals

LOUIS MALLE AND JOHN GUARE, director and writer, respectively, of Academy Award-nominated *Atlantic City*, will next collaborate on a film version of the ABCAM scandals, to star Belushi and Aykroyd.

BELUSHI AND AYKROYD, meanwhile, are still being investigated by the Writers Guild disciplinary committee; they've been charged with "scabbing" while filming *Neighbors* during last year's writers strike. Aykroyd admitted, in an interview with the *Hollywood Reporter*, that the changes made were in the "improvisational role of actors, not writers." Perhaps this case will lead to a clearer definition of what constitutes writing. It isn't, apparently, just a typewriter and some paper.

STEVEN SPIELBERG has announced plans to remake *A Guy Called Joe*, an undistinguished fantasy that starred Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson and World War II. The title will be changed to *Always*.

PRODUCER ALLAN CARR (*Don't Stop the Music*, *Grease*) has offered Elton John the lead in the Broadway revival of Anthony Newley's *The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd*.

THE BOBBY DARIN STORY, based on Al Di Orio's book *On Borrowed Time*, will get its star from open auditions held in New York. Though the film will be dramatic, not a musical, there will be a soundtrack album on Beverly Hills Records (through RCA).

DAVID GEFFEN just signed a five-year deal with Warner Bros. films (he once worked there as a top exec). The studio will fully finance and distribute the pictures, but Geffen and company will have artistic control. Geffen is currently listed as executive producer of *Personal Best*, but he claims he won't be involved in any future pictures as a producer. This year Geffen plans to make two films: one to be announced, the other *Man Trouble*, written by Carol Eastman (who, using the alias Adrian Joyce, wrote *Five Easy Pieces*). *Dreamgirls*, currently on Broadway and coproduced by Geffen, will not necessarily be part of this deal, but it will be filmed eventually. *Dreamgirls* is the story of a black female singing trio a la the Supremes.

CBS RECORDS AND 7 UP will pool their resources for promotional purposes — a \$1 million merchandising campaign, based on a contest running through April 15, with 13 million game cards with hidden symbols distributed to 45,000 7-Up outlets around the country. Winners redeem their cards

through the mail and get CBS records in return. Wouldn't it be easier to just buy them?

HAND MADE FILMS, the outfit that gave us *Time Bandits*, is planning three more for our amazement: *The Missionary*, written by and starring Monty Python Michal Palin, will also, if they're lucky, star John Gielgud and Alec Guinness; John Cleese, also a Python, will star in the film version of a play called *Privates on Parade*, and the first to see the light of production will be *Scrubbers*, about women in prison, directed by Mai Zetterling. *Yellowbeard*, written by Python Graham Chapman, is still in limbo.

MICK JAGGER NEEDS \$15 MILLION (don't call us) in order to launch filming of Gore Vidal's *Kalki*. Allegedly Alec Guinness (his third mention in this column, if anyone's counting) has agreed to play the diabolical scientist, while director Hal Ashby is still committed, and Vidal himself wrote the screenplay. We're waiting...

Knacksters on Track

MICHAEL DES BARRÉS, formerly with Detective, has been cutting demo tracks for a new LP, to be produced by formerly hot ("Heart of Glass," "Hot Child in the City") wax-master Mike Chapman. Helping out are Bruce Gary, Berton Averre and Prescott Niles, former members of the Knack. Officially, the Knack is parting "temporarily." The group tried for an image makeover with the release of their third Capitol LP, to counter the snotty reputation earned in their one-hit wonder days. But, since post-"My Sharona" album sales have been slack, and since (rumor has it) the rest of the band totally loathes headman Doug Feiger, temporary probably means forever. Feiger, meanwhile, is at work on a solo album.

Brassy Women Sought

IVY AND THE ELEGANTS, who plan to be the best all-woman R&B band in Los Angeles (and that's just for starters), are auditioning horn players. Applicants must be female, funky, and willing to display their embouchure.

Need Wheels?

JUST OFFERED FOR SALE in a Hollywood paper's classifieds: The *Goldfinger* prop car, a perfectly normal 1964 Aston Martin DBS with select options — an ejector seat, two machine guns, metal tire slashers that extend from the wheel hubs and devices that can lay smoke screens and oil slicks in the path of wicked pursuers. And did we mention the revolving license plates? Priced to sell (be the first on your block to strafe Buicks!) at only \$200,000.

Three Down, Five to Go

ROLLING STONE EDITOR/PUBLISHER Jann Wenner's deal with Paramount, made in the aftermath of *Animal House*'s success — possibly Paramount thought Wenner had his pinkie in the pulse of youthful America — died quietly, with no films ever produced. At least one was written, by former *Rolling Stone* senior editor Ben Fong-Torres: *Somebody to Love*, about San Francisco in the Sixties. Two others were planned, one "an old Hunter Thompson project," and one "about high school" by *Stone* feature writer Cameron Crowe. (Crowe in-

stead wrote a book and teleplay with-out Wenner: *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*.) According to a report in *New York* magazine, Wenner received \$1000 a week during the 2-1/2-year deal. Paramount sez they may still someday make a Wenner film, but it will have to be developed with someone else's money.

FIVE LAMPOON PROJECTS are in the works. We keep mentioning this because so many people (3 or 4, at least) insist that college students care desperately about anything named *Lampoon*. *Class Reunion*, detailed here last issue, is due September 1 from 20th Century-Fox; *Vacation '82* starts filming at Warner Bros. this spring; *Joy of Sex* at Paramount is still waiting for a director to replace departing Bill Norton Jr. (Penny Marshall, Laverne herself, has been offered the job); and the once-axed *National Lampoon Goes to the Movies* has been re-edited by Matty Simmons, head of *Lampoon* and no film editor; this one threatens to emerge sometime this year from United Artists. And to make it almost universal, Universal is "considering" a script of *Animal House 2*. MGM and Columbia do not have any *Lampoon* projects. They have all the luck.

& Twelve More...

REMEMBER LAST ISSUE when we listed three, count 'em, three productions of *The Pirates of Penzance* coming to big and small screens soon? Well, hang onto your beanies — CBS Cable TV has bought up five, count 'em, five made-for-TV Gilbert & Sullivan musicals: *HMS Pinafore*, *The Gondoliers*, *The Mikado*, *Iolanthe*, and, sure enough, *The Pirates of Penzance*. Each two-hour operetta stars William Conrad, Peter Marshall, Peter Allen, Frankie Howerd, Keith Michell and



Ten Years Late, but Who's Counting?

THE CONCERT FOR BANGLADESH, organized by George Harrison in 1971 to benefit the starving children of that country, has finally had an official tally of money (all proceeds donated to UNICEF): \$10,750,000. The concert, film and album of same starred Harrison, Bob Dylan, Ringo Starr, Eric Clapton, Leon Russell and Ravi Shankar. The first two years after the concert, \$2,250,000 was handed over to UNICEF; in the ensuing 8 years, \$8,500,000 trickled in. The U.S. Committee for UNICEF decided to honor Harrison for his part in all this; Hugh Downs is the chairman of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, which explains most of the photo above.

Clive Revill. What's more, the remaining seven Gilbert & Sullivan operettas will be produced for the same outfit.

Josie, Are You Obscene?

AN UNUSUAL POP TUNE entitled "Johnny, Are You Queer?," a standout of past stage shows by the Go-Go's, was recently recorded by Josie Cotton for a local L.A. label named Bomp Records. The song's popularity, particularly on KROQ, a Pasadena FMer, led Ms. Cotton to a contract with Elektra/Asylum Records. But the lyric, in which Ms. Cotton questions the virility of a guy who's disinterested in scaling her Mount of Venus, has spawned a backlash. A re-

cent gathering of several placard-carriers outside KROQ's studio, identified as People Against Obscenity, paraded slogans like "Think Straight" and "Hell No, We Won't Blow." KROQ reciprocated by playing the song twice for the protesters.

Personals

BILL HUDSON, former husband to Goldie Hawn and father of her two children, will next marry Cindy Williams of *Laverne & Shirley*.

GILDA RADNER AND GENE WILDER met while making *Hanky Panky*, and they're still together. Her husband, the rock guitarist, is out in the cold.

Tuneful News & Looney Tunes

DAVID BOWIE & GIORGIO MORODER have collaborated on the soundtrack for *Cat People* (see feature this issue). It will be released on Backstreet Records.

BUCOLIC FOLK/PUNK ROCKER Neil Young may actually be headed from serene Burbank to nasty Hollywood; RCA is reportedly coaxing Lonesome Neil with tall offers to split from Warner-Reprise, the Warner Bros. subsidiary whose only other current artist is Frank Sinatra. "However," says a Warners spokesman, "under the terms of his contract, he owes us one more album. So talk of his departure is a little premature."

THE SOUNDTRACK FOR *One from the Heart*, with masterful songs by Tom Waits and moody singing by Crystal Gayle and Waits, may not be picked up by Columbia Records. (They have first crack at it because Gayle records for them, presumably). Dumb move.

(Continued next page)

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