

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Scoop

GIRLFRIEND



Since music is often a vehicle for reflecting changes in society and its attitudes, it's no surprise that, as women the world over continue to fight for equality, their feelings about life, love, sex and relationships are being expressed through song. Monica Boyd, Stacy Francis, Tisha Hunter and Julia Roberson, the four young women who comprise Ex-Girlfriend, express a decidedly '90's female viewpoint through the material contained in their exciting sophomore album, so aptly tagged *It's A Woman Thang*.

The group agrees, "Our album

is called *It's A Woman Thang* because there are some things guys might never understand...and although it might surprise some men, we girls talk about sex too! The fact is, we're bombarded by sex through every aspect of the media from television, movies, advertising and radio but almost all of it is from a male perspective. As women, we need to express ourselves and show men how we feel."

Kicking off the album is "X In Your Sex," (the first single) produced by Carl Sturken and Evan Rogers, a groove with a decidedly sensuous feel which Stacy describes

as, "playful. A lot of the songs on our album are that way. Take the flava' of "Can I Get A Nasty" which is so fly, it's funky, you know, flirtatious. The thing is, a lot of girls feel like they have to pull back when it comes to expressing themselves about sex, but we're honest about it. It's all about communication, being responsible for yourself and practicing safe sex."

Working with a range of hitmaking producers including (artist in his own right) R. Kelly, newcomers Tricky & Sep, Paul Walker, and Hidden Agenda (a New York team discovered by

Full Force), the members of Ex-Girlfriend have created an album that reflects their musical and vocal growth. "We had more say-so in the choice of songs this time around," says Monica, while partner Stacy adds, "Yes, we took a step up with this record and we have a more mature sound. For instance, 'Yes, I'm Ready' is a song we all co-wrote with Full Force," and, adds Tisha, "There's 'Takes Me Away,' which deals with being with someone special without any of the day-to-day interruptions of life."

BY JANICE MALONE

Get Ready for Kelly: Look for the hot n' heavy R. Kelly to be headlining his own tour, which should start late next month or in early September. Kelly recently completed the new video for "Summer Bunnies" last week. The vid/flix was shot in Chi-town and Kelly's protegee Aaliyah is said to also make an appearance in the video. Look for it on your favorite video channel soon. And look for a major interview with Mr. Kelly right here in The Scoop very soon. By the way, R. Kelly's album "12 Play" has now reached the triple platinum status. His "Bump N' Grind" single became the longest-running No. 1 single (13 weeks), or, Billboard's R&B singles chart since 1958, surpassing Whitney Houston's record for "I Will Always Love You." With stats like that, R. Kelly has definitely become the new king of R&B music!

Hewitt Can't Do It: That is, fill up those large concert halls like he used to. One of our Scooper sources report that Howard Hewitt was performing in Atlanta recently at a rather small and modest night club. He's also made some recent appearances singing on The Trinity Broadcasting Network!

What's Old Is News: Guess who's in the recording studio? It's Confunkshun and The Stylistics! Both groups are working hard on new albums with hit making producer Felton Pilot, who's commandeered for such luminaries as Hammer and Quincy Jones. And to further speak of new projects, Dreamgirls star Jennifer Holliday is now with the Atlanta-based music company Intersound. The company is also the new home for the Mighty Clouds of Joy, Edwin Hawkins, Vickie Winans and others.

A Smaller Spike? Spike Lee's next effort, "The Drop Squad" will be dropping in the theater near you in about 30 days, in some areas. It's interesting to note that the new film doesn't feature any big name stars.

Shot on a modest budget, the movie was done shortly before he started "Crooklyn." Let's hope "The Drop Squad" drops more dollars at the box office than his previous film, which could easily be called "brooklyn", considering the box office receipts it didn't make.

Wide Receiver/Wide Ego: A young lady in Atlanta had a rather strange encounter with Atlanta Falcon star wide receiver Andre Rison. The young lady reports that she entered the elevator at one of the Atlanta area Marriott hotels. Rison and another Falcon player were already in the elevator. The lady says she pressed the button for the floor she wanted and suddenly, out of no where, Rison looks at her and says, "Do you realize who you're riding this elevator with?" Yet another example of celebrity who also needs to "Leggo his ego." And can anybody figure out the strange love/hate relationship Rison has with TLC member Lisa Lopes? You know she has this thing about matches, burning boyfriends houses, cars and such.

Zeus Does A Deuce? Remember the huge bald-headed brother who played as the "Zeus" villainous character against Hulk Hogan on the World Wrestling Federation? The actor's real name is Tiny Lister and he's since done other films, one with Van Damme and also with Ice Cube in "Tres Pass." Well some of our sources spotted Mr. Lister down in Atlanta recently. Two ladies swear the actor ran the exact same line, on the exact same day but on 2 different women. These young ladies both know each other and according to them the former Zeus reportedly promised lady number one that if she were his girl, how faithful he would be, and that he'd never leave her. But then later that day he ran the exact same routine on girl number two! Both women say they got a big laugh from the whole episode.

Complement your diet with a balanced fitness program incorporating both aerobic exercise and strength training.

King Tribute Is Sunday

The Urban League of Portland is encouraging community members to attend the Oregon Symphony's musical tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 3 p.m. at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. "Music can be an incredible mediator," said Urban League President and Chief Executive Officer Lawrence J. Dark. "Attending the upcoming concert is a great way to honor the memory of another great mediator, Dr. Martin Luther King." The concert program includes two contemporary orchestral works inspired by the words of Dr. King.

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