

# & OUT THE OT

## Also Rans

DEBORAH HARRY auditioned for the lead in *Night People*, a film about Los Angeles folk who toil at night (starring Gene Hackman), as did *WKRP's* Loni Anderson, but neither was chosen; Lisa Eichhorn (see feature this issue) won.

EGAD, NOT ANOTHER ONE: we made a mistake in the last issue when we claimed *Being There* was nominated for a Best Picture Oscar. The nominators weren't so astute.

## And Now, That Hilarious Viet Nam War

NO LESS THAN THREE TV series about Viet Nam are scheduled for primetime, one on each network. CBS offers *Bureau*, a one-hour comedy-drama about a news bureau in Saigon in 1965; *Six O'Clock Follies* will appear on NBC, where it's called a *M.A.S.H.*-like half-hour sitcom about a military television station in Saigon. Over on ABC, look for *Bringing Them Home*, another (they hope) *M.A.S.H.*-like half-hour about rank-and-file soldiers in funny old Nam.

Also, *The Deer Hunter* may eventually see the light of the small screen — as a TV series. CBS refused to air the film in its

full-length version (realizing that the Russian roulette scenes were integral to the plot), but EMI is preparing some series scripts based on the DeNiro and Savage characters after the war. (Other recent films turned into TV series — *Breaking Away*, mentioned last issue, and now *Foul Play*, in which Deborah Raffin plays Goldie Hawn and Barry Bostwick assumes the Chevy Chase role.)

## Overambition, Thy Name Is Copyrighted

FIVE SONGS on Bernie Taupin's forthcoming solo debut album, *He Who Rides the Tiger*, have been copyrighted for use as films. Though his collaboration with Elton John sold a reputed 100 million records worldwide, Taupin has remained rather non-famous, particularly since ceasing to work regularly with John. A subsequent collaboration with Alice Cooper proved pointless. But the determined songwriter is high on the possibilities of his new work. "The Whores of Paris," one of the copyrighted-for-film songs comes, says Taupin, "from my experiences when I was hanging out at L'Hotel, a crazy small hotel in Paris, with only 25 rooms, where both Oscar Wilde and Sarah Bernhardt died."

## You Gotta Know When to Clothe 'Em

REPORTS THAT JERRY LEE LEWIS will open a Nashville night club turned up an interesting item: Kenny Rogers, whose career solidified around the success of "The Gambler," a well-crafted (by someone else) sentimental C&W tune, and who recently starred in a dumb TV movie based on the song, once ran the same club. But Rogers, whose appeal is now very middle-American, was forced to close the nitespot by persistent police raids, provoked by equally persistent nude dancing acts. Lewis plans to feature music by live, clothed performers.

## Good News, Odd News

A SMALL REVIVAL of John Steinbeck's work is in progress; *East of Eden* is currently filming in the Salinas Valley, bound for television, while Nick Nolte is poised to star in a big-screen version of *Cannery Row* (which will also reportedly include bits of *Sweet Thursday*, plus other stuff Steinbeck never wrote), written and directed by David Ward (who won an Academy Award for his screenplay for *The Sting* and was subsequently sued for ripping off the idea). Michael Phillips (*Taxi Driver*, *The Sting*) will produce... and he'll also produce *Heartbeats*, to star Andy Kaufman. A dubious distinction for the flick: it will be directed by Allan Arkush, whose main claim to fame is directing *Rock and Roll High School*.

ALBERT BROOKS is working on a new film (his first since *Real Life*) which he's co-writing with Monica Johnson; he'll probably direct and star in it too.

THE STRANGEST PEOPLE show up in *Variety's* casting news column: *Betail*, a sci-fi film fantasy, stars Marty Robbins, Peter Tork, Billy Barty, the Ricci Martin Band and Joey Mitchell. Marty Robbins is the country-western singer-songwriter ("El Paso," "White Sport Coat," etc.); Peter Tork was once a Monkee; Billy Barty is a well-known Hollywood midget; and Ricci Martin is Dino's son. Producer Joe Buccheri says the flick (title of which is pronounced bay-tie and means "animal" in Cajun) concerns a rock promoter who incorporates science fiction and folklore into his concerts... until fiction becomes a reality. "We have an eight-foot creature and a space craft," said Buccheri. Joey Mitchell, by the way, plays Jimi Hendrix.

## Scoreboard

ACTRESS AMY IRVING and director Steven Spielberg (after living together many years and planning their marriage this summer) split up recently; Amy started spending time with her *Honeysuckle Rose* co-star Willie Nelson, who is many years her senior (and still married). Meanwhile, Spielberg is comforting himself with *One Day at a Time* star Valerie Bertinelli, who is many years his junior.



Professor Longhair died on Wednesday, January 30, at age 72, undisputed king of New Orleans musicians. Through his joyous, polyrhythmic piano playing — and through disciples like Fats Domino, Art Neville, Allen Toussaint and Dr. John — he created a lasting influence on American popular music. As Neville smilingly put it in a 1977 interview, "Goin' on seventy years old and he's still treacherous." Longhair's last LP, among the best of a thirty-year recording career, is reviewed on page 12.

## Music Makes Movie Money

AFTER 29 YEARS ON TV, *American Bandstand* will be a movie — about a boy and a girl who meet while dancing on the show and fall in love. Awww. Dick Clark, needless to add, will play the show's genial host. Although this flick will take place in modern times, the *American Bandstand*-early Sixties heyday of South Philadelphia crooners and rockers is the setting for *The Idolmaker*, based on the discovery and promotion of a singing star vaguely reminiscent of Fabian.

## Damn the Depression, Sign 'em Up

DAVID GEFFEN, once head of Asylum Records, is back in the music business: his new label, still unnamed, will be the fourth under the Warner Communications Inc. banner (after Warner Bros., Atlantic and Elektra/Asylum) and will follow the small artist roster formula Geffen devised for Asylum. Geffen's past few years were spent as an ill-fated exec at WB pictures, after which he holed up in New York, occasionally teaching courses in music biz survival at NYU.

INTO THE FREQUENTLY BORING and generally lily-white world of L.A.'s "new wave club scene" has come the refreshing and highly danceable force of the Bus Boys, a black and chicano outfit some observers already call the best rock & roll band in town. Their recent stand at Madame Wong's West drew top brass from the *L.A. Times*, Elektra/Asylum Records and Arista Records, among others, and prompted one happy dancer to exclaim "We've needed these guys!"

## Wax on the Way

CARLY SIMON, who has always had a good ear for innuendo, is considering some spring tour dates to pump sales of her soon-to-be-released LP, *Come Upstairs*. The B-52s, meanwhile, have titled their next opus *Urgentissimo* and Devo will soon be out with *Freedom of Choice*, a self-produced venture on which, say inside sources, they're "going leisure suit." Which should create a stir in Norman, Oklahoma, to say the least.

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