

# Radioscope: The Column

## En Vogue: Are They The Baddest?

**Baddest Girl Group in Music Today:** Popular music was deluged with cute all-female groups when En Vogue came along earlier this year. But what set these four ladies apart was the fact that they could actually sing. En Vogue is Dawn Robinson, Terry Willis, Cindy Herron and Maxine Jones - four young ladies who've staked their claim as one of the baddest new groups in popular music today. They exploded enough for a platinum single. Their debut album's a scorcher too, and has sold enough to earn a gold album. But you get the feeling that success has caught them off guard. When we interviewed En Vogue, back when their record first came out, they just wanted to make a name for themselves. Little did these ladies know they were on the verge of becoming one of the hottest acts in R&B and pop music. The En Vogue ladies are currently making their way up the charts with "Lies", their second entry into the musical competition for big selling hits. The single's burning al-

most as hot as "Hold On", and is conquering the upper reaches of the Black music charts. "Lies", like all the songs on En Vogue's "Born to Sing" album, was produced by former Club Nouveau members, Denzel Foster and Thomas McElroy, who deserve alot of the credit for En Vogue's success. En Vogue is now making the adjustments that new-found celebrity status requires. That means getting used to performing in front of large audiences and being recognized on the street, and dealing with all the work that's involved in sustaining a recording career. These ladies were leading normal, quiet lives before becoming En Vogue but after they recorded, "Born to Sing", the album, they knew something big was going to happen. And the hardest thing so far was facing that first audience. "Before we performed, we were on the edge, we couldn't get anything together, but once we got out there it was wonderful".

**From the PP & T (People, Places & Things) File:** Although there is no release date for New Edi-

tion member, Ralph Tresvant's solo album, Ralph says it's just about "ready to roll". Ralph describes the sound as being "real original, smooth and laid back"... Singer/actress Nia Peebles, who played the role of Nicole Chapman on the TV show "Fame", and who also happens to be Mrs. Howard Hewitt, will host a new music variety show called, "Nia Peebles' Party Machine". The show is built to be a companion to Arsenio's show. The whole idea is to continue the party after the Arsenio Hall Show... **Flashback:** Under the leadership of songwriter, producer and lead vocalist, Harry Casey, K.C. & the Sunshine Band churned out a string of chart-topping R&B/pop hits in the 1970's, "That's the Way I Like It", "Get Down Tonight", "Do You Want to Party", and "Shake, Shake, Shake Your Bootie". K.C. & the Sunshine Band had their last #1 song in 1980. After recovering from a car accident that left him paralyzed, and overcoming heavy alcohol abuse after the death of father, K.C. is

preparing to make a comeback. He's taking his time in putting an album together that will show off the band's talents even more... **From Our Feedback Line:** Callers ask why Arsenio Hall put down Keenan Ivory Wayans after Keenan imitated Arsenio on the hit show, "In Living Color", but thought Saturday Night Live's Arsenio imitation was funny. Keenan says he received a card from Arsenio telling him not to believe anything he's heard in the press. So, as far as Keenan is concerned, there is no animosity between him and Arsenio and the whole thing was blown out of proportion in the media. Another caller asks why Arsenio has not had Public Enemy on his show. Arsenio says it's not up to him, and that he'd love to have them on the show. But PE's leader, Chuck D. says they wouldn't appear on the show even if Arsenio asked them to.

If you have an opinion on this or any of our stories, just call our Feedback Line at (213) 257-2354.

## Grammy Nominee Plays Spirit Square

"The hippest of all songwriters" is what the Los Angeles Times calls David Frishberg, who brings his considerable composing and performing talents to Spirit Square Center for the Arts October 4 at 8:45 pm. The performance will benefit the Center's education program, announced Spirit Square president Dr. Joseph Golden, which enables talented students who need financial assistance to take classes at a reduced rate or free of charge.

Affectionately referred to as "the Woody Allen of Jazz," Frishberg has enjoyed a career which would be envied by any musician for both its quality and diversity. Long known as one of the outstanding pianists in jazz, Frishberg has also established himself as an internationally recognized composer and lyricist, and as one of the foremost singer/songwriters of our era.

Early in his career during the 1960's, Frishberg was a busy pianist in New York City, regularly performing with jazz pioneers such as Ben Webster, Al Cohn,

Zoot Sims and Gene Krupa. Since the early 1970's, however, Frishberg has resided in Los Angeles, working as a studio musician, composer and recording artist, he has also made many appearances on "The Tonight Show," often performing with Doc Severinson's band.

Frishberg's last four albums have all been nominated for "best jazz vocal" Grammy Awards. Though technically not a great singer, Frishberg's conviction to his material, charismatic stage presence and considerable skills as a pianist have endeared him to audiences across the land. He effortlessly mixes jazz with elements of theatre and Hollywood movie music, eschewing topics of love and romance in favor of biting social commentary.

Frishberg has been praised by everyone from the New York Times, which pronounced that Frishberg "is equalled only by Stephen Sondheim among contemporary songwriters," to High Fidelity, which called Frishberg's music "one of the most fascinating adjuncts of contem-

porary jazz."

Tickets for David Frishberg's October 4 performance are \$25 and include a pre-concert cocktail reception and buffet from 8:30 to 7:30 pm, and coffee and desserts following the performance. For reservations, call the Spirit Square Box Office at 376-8883, or stop by 345 N. College Street from 9 am to 5:30 pm weekdays; noon to 5 pm, Saturdays.

Spirit Square Center for the Arts is an annually funded member of the Arts and Science Council--Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Inc.

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## Premieres!!!!

### By Margo Classe

#### Narrow Margin

For all it's typical good-guy-gets-bad-guy theme, "Narrow Margin" is really a film about one man's obsession. Gene Hackman, starring in the role of Robert Cauffield (a Los Angeles deputy district attorney),-- is the man. His obsession? Putting heavy-weight underworld boss Leo Watts behind bars. Why? We don't know, and never find out. Fact is, it doesn't really matter, because this film is no mystery. Leaving little to chance, its filmmakers incorporated just the right mix of action, chase scenes, murder, shady characters and above all, top-notch actors, led by Academy Award-winner Gene Hackman, and Anne Archer, who received an Oscar nomination for her role as the wife in "Fatal Attraction",-- another movie bout an obsession.

In "Narrow Margin", Archer, stars as Carol Hunnicut, the editor of a publishing company whose life is turned upside-down when she accidentally witnesses an underworld execution, and becomes Hackman's best chance at convicting Watts. The action heats up when Hackman, discovering Hunnicut's existence, unknowingly leads hired guns right to her. As far as Hunnicut was concerned, this incompetent move of Hackman's didn't exactly help to persuade her to go back to Los Angeles to testify against Watts, nor did it solidify her confidence in his capabilities of protecting her from the hit men.

James B. Sicking,-- best known for his role as Lt. Howard Hunter on the critically acclaimed television series "Hill Street Blues",-- stands out in his role as Nelson, one of the hit men. Nelson is the classic kind of bad guy-- an enforcer for organized crime, who is very good at his job. He is contracted to track down and kill Hunnicut. Nelson is unrelentless in this deadly game of cat-and-mouse (in which the difference between life and death comes down to a narrow margin), as witnessed in a somewhat spectacular stunt sequence that has the three of them atop a train,-- hanging, running and fighting for their lives. (Of course, Nelson falls,-- he's supposed to in this near-to-miss "Perils of Pauline" climax).

But don't get me wrong, I really enjoyed "Narrow Margin". It won't be seeing any Academy Award nominations, but it's my kind of movie, and yours too, if you're just looking to sit back, share some popcorn and have a good time.

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## New Kid On the Block!

Clair Huxtable (Phylicia Rashad) welcomes her second cousin, Pam (Erika Alexander) to the Huxtable household this fall on "The Cosby Show" on NBC-TV Thursdays (8:00 - 8:30 p.m. on WCNC-TV Channel 36). Pam is going to be free-spirited and difficult and plans to add some needed spice to the Huxtable family. The show is in its seventh and possibly final season.

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