

## Pitching songs to Nashville's fat cats

I'm sure you've heard the old saying, "sometimes it pays to act stupid." No one has ever accused me of acting. Some of us don't know what's going on, and we like it that way. I have seen folks get out of a lot of work by pretending their bread wasn't done.

I made my first visit to Nashville about a hundred years ago, or so it seems. Like I said, "I ain't never claimed to be sane." Believe it or not, I didn't know as much then as I do now. I caught a dog and rode it to the old Greyhound bus station not too far from Broadway, which was known as skid row. Across the road was the Bell Motel. It was nothing fancy but it beat the heck out of an alley down on Broadway.

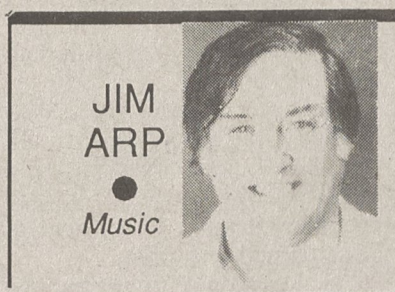
I had some songs to pitch. I used to walk from the motel all the way over to 16th Avenue, which was known as Music Row. That's a pretty good hop.

I invaded the first publishing company I came to on my first visit to 16th. I had no idea you were supposed to make an appointment first. Another misconception I had was that all those cats were down home. Some were.

As I walked into the building, I could see straight ahead a room with some cats listening to a tape, the old reel kind. Cassettes weren't on the market. The lady out front said, "Can I help you?" I said, "N. I need to see those folks back there." I was almost in the room when I heard her say, "You can't go in there." She seemed upset.

Those men listened to my songs. They didn't want them but they did take time for me. I did the same thing every time I could find someone in the different companies with a tape recorder. I didn't pay the receptionist any attention. I didn't know any better. That wouldn't happen today. They'd have you carted out.

There's one incident I remember well. I went into an old house which was re-done and still held its charm. There was this fat cat, just like you hear about, chewing on a stoker and ready to show me how important he was. He put one of my songs on the recorder. About a third into it, another big wheel came in. They began to talk. I reached over and turned the tape off. The fat man almost swallowed his left ear. He look at me in disbelief. I said, "You don't want to hear my song. You can't do that and run your mouth at the same time." Both



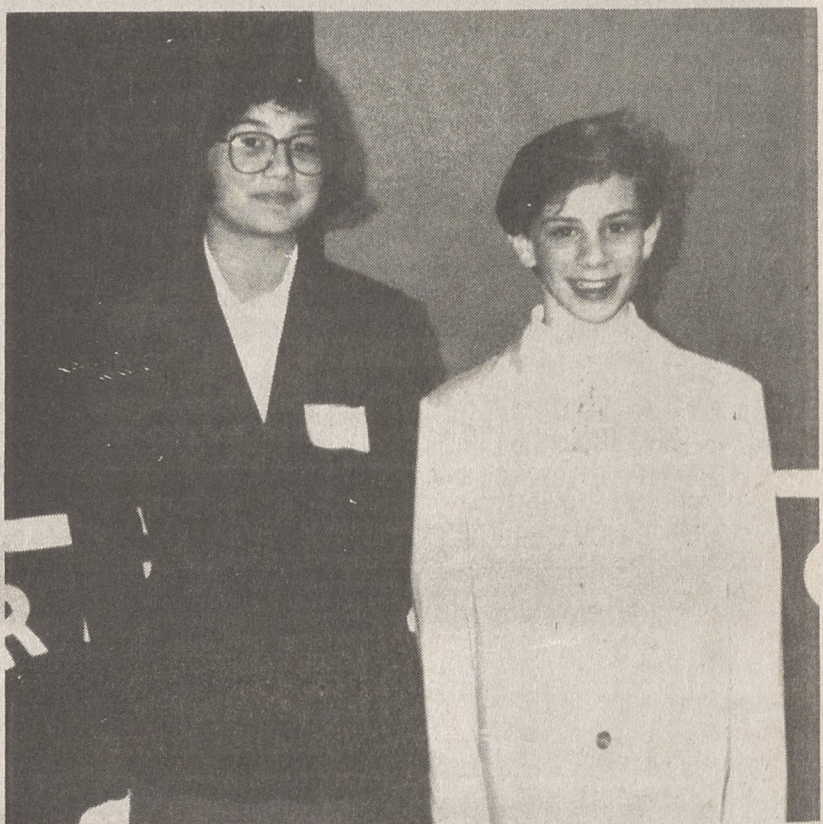
JIM ARP  
Music

any, had ever done that.

The thing that made me mad, and still does, is that those fat cats were mostly lawyers or business men and they're going to tell you what's wrong with your song. They didn't even know as much about song writing as a hog knows about Sunday.

There are, of course, many talented people who work for different companies. I always got the duds. They knew I just got off the turnip truck. I think half of them had been driving it.

men were in a state of shock as I walked out. At the time, I didn't think it was a big deal. Years later, I realized that not many people, if



MIDDLE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES -- Debbie Dalton and Michael Wilson represented Kings Mountain Middle School at the 17th Annual Leadership Conference of the Career Exploration Clubs of N.C. Debbie was installed as State Sentinel. She is the daughter of Lillian and Kenneth Dalton. Michael placed third in the state performing arts competition. He is the son of Tonya and Jeep Wilson.



CHRIS RAY



LISA WEBBER

## Fashion show set at Woman's Club

Casual summer fashions that will also double for after-five occasions will be modeled by six models from Belk-Stevens of Cleveland Mall at a benefit card party and fashion show Thursday night at 7 p.m. at Kings Mountain Woman's Club.

Proceeds will be used to help purchase a computer for the Kings Mountain Senior Center.

Janet Royster will coordinate the show for which Betty McPherson will be commentator. The public is invited. The \$5 cost of the ticket also includes dessert.

Card players may make up their own tables and provide their own cards. Home Life members will serve refreshments.

Lisa Webber will model shorts and skirt outfits with complimentary jackets in the popular Liz Claiborne line. She says the pearl embroidered blouse can also be worn with the cream jacket and multi print skirt for afternoon and evening wear.

Chris Ray says she likes the spring floral look that she will be modeling in a knee-length summer dress which can also be topped

with a jacket for evening wear and high heels. The sleeveless dress is enhanced by box pleats at the hemline.

"Guests don't have to play cards to come to the fashion show," says Jessie Collins, show chairman.

Sixteen tables in the auditorium of the Woman's Club are topped with blue moire cloths donated by Foust Textiles and arranged with spring flowers. The models will show off the fashions from the stage set of "Steel Magnolias," the Little Theatre's summer play which opens Friday night at the Woman's Club for two weekends.



EAST ELEMENTARY AND COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS -- First grade classes at East School provided entertainment during the April 14th "Focus on the Family" meeting sponsored by East PTO and Cleveland County Communities In Schools. Over 300 participated. The purpose of the meeting was to give parents the opportunity to share ideas and concerns about how the community can continue to meet the growing needs of East School families.

## It's a boy for Gambles

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Gamble announce the birth of a son, John Byron Gamble, May 12, 1992.

Grandparents are Mrs. Betty R. Gamble and the late John Gamble and Mrs. D. F. Hord and the late Dr. Hord.

Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Roberts and Mrs. Byron Keeter and the late J. Byron Keeter.

## Kids Days set at Charlotte fair

Kid's Days are Saturday and Sunday at Charlotte City Fair underway at the main gate of the Charlotte Coliseum on Paul Buck Boulevard in Charlotte.

Children can enjoy unlimited riding in Kiddieland from noon to 5 p.m. for \$5.

The first annual Charlotte City Fair features the James E. Strates Shows carnival midway with over 50 rides and 100 concessions.

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