



ADAM WHITE

## MUSIC

MAY OFFEND SOME READERS

## Warning: Explicit Lyrics Update

There's no media fuss — and it may not be making much difference to record sales, one way or the other. But the residual effects of the PMRC's war on "explicit" lyrics can still be seen around the music industry.

LL Cool J's current platinum album is now being made available to retailers by CBS in a "cleaned-up" form, if they want it.

The original Def Jam/Columbia release of "Bigger And Deffer" carried a warning sticker: "Explicit Lyrics/Parental Advisory."

That same, PMRC-preferred legend is also on the new WASP release, "Live . . . In The Raw." It's the band's third to be tagged, after last fall's "Inside The Electric Circus" and 1984's "The Last Command."

The new Red Hot Chili Peppers album on EMI/Manhattan, "The Uplift Mofo Party Plan," has a "Parental Advisory" — even as the label and the band embark on a promotion effort guaranteed to offend the PMRC (see Compact Data, this page).

"Appetite For Destruction" by Guns N' Roses, currently part of Geffen's "Power Surge" campaign, is stickered. The notice reads: "Contains language which may be unsuitable for some listeners."

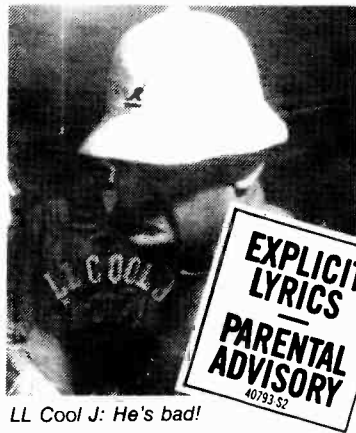
(When the PMRC effort was at its peak, Geffen was one of the labels which said it would refuse to use the "generic" sticker preferred by the parents' group.)

By contrast, indie label Luke Skywalker Records has tagged its

latest 12-inch by the 2 Live Crew: "Contains no explicit lyrics."

The group's "2 Live Crew Is What We Are" album did contain such lyrics, and its availability at one retail outlet in Florida even caused a store clerk to be prosecuted for selling the disc to a minor.

Then there are the humorous variations. A summer Sire 12-inch by rapper Ice-T, for example, boasted a warning sticker in the shape of an inflated condom — and the sticker itself had a catalog number: PMRC-1.



LL Cool J: He's bad!

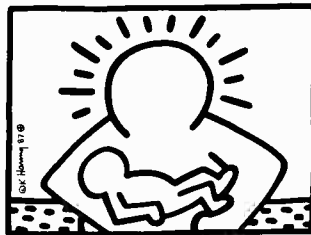
## A 'Special Christmas' Gift From A&amp;M

Programmers by now should have received the promotional cassette package of "A Very Special Christmas," the collection of seasonal songs that will benefit Special Olympics International.

The album and cassette, distributed by A&M, will be in stores October 19; the CD will follow November 16. None of the tracks has appeared before on an LP. Executive production chores were handled by Jimmy Iovine, while the cover design was created by New York-based artist Keith Haring.

The promo tape contains excerpts from the following selected songs on the upcoming album: "Gabriel's Message"/Sting, "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)"/U2, "Merry Christmas Baby" (live version)/Bruce

## A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS



Springsteen & The E Street Band, "Winter Wonderland"/Eurythmics, and "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"/John Cougar Mellencamp.

Other cuts on the promo tape are: "Back Door Santa"/Bon Jovi, "Silent Night"/Stevie Nicks, "The Little Drummer Boy"/Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band, "Do You Hear What I Hear?"/Whitney Houston, and "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town"/Pointer Sisters.

Also included on the promotional tape is an introductory message from Vicki Iovine, wife of Jimmy Iovine. Her involvement in previous fund-raising events for the Special Olympics helped lead to the development of the "... Christmas" project.

Although A&M is handling distribution, the album will be released on Special Olympics Records. The label was established specifically for this project.

All of A&M's worldwide distribution receipts (minus marketing and production costs) will be donated to the organization. Over one million mentally retarded people in 73 countries benefit from the Special Olympics program.

You'll have to wait for the LP to hear the full versions and remaining tracks from the Pretenders ("Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas"), "Christmas In Hollis" by Run-DMC, Madonna's "Santa Baby," Bryan Adams's version of "Run Rudolph Run," and "The Coventry Carol" by Alison Moyet.

## Yes, But In Three Different Designs

Atco GM Margo Knesz says it was like shooting a movie: "The actors and actresses don't know what the whole thing looks like until they sit in a theater and see the finished film."

She's referring to the new Yes release, "Big Generator" — or, more specifically, to the fact that its cover design is different for the LP, cassette, and compact disc.

Not radically different, but enough to keep the label's creative services team busy. The graphic variations were the band's idea, created by UK designers Mout/Al.

Explains Knesz, "When we first saw this, it was all bits and pieces. Now we see it all done, the result looks fabulous. But as we were going through everything . . ."

An additional complication: the different designs required the creation of special colors, rather than any of the hundreds of standard PMS selections most often used in album art.

Knesz says, "Sure, it would have been a hell of a lot easier to have an album jacket and carry that art through to the cassette and the compact disc. But as it turns out, every piece looks great. And if somebody's going to do something different, leave it up to Yes."

There are a couple of configurations which share the same design, however: the 45 and cassette single of "Love Will Find A Way." Says Knesz, "I can't believe we actually used the same artwork. But we wanted to get them out fast."

The band agreed — and at least the single's title isn't "99449."

## Compact Data

## Madonna's Top Tape

"Who's That Girl" is the top-selling cassette single so far from the Warner Bros. camp, according to VP/Director of Sales Lou Dennis.

The label has shipped 105,000 copies of the Sire release on tape (initial outlay was approximately 20,000) and 446,000 on vinyl.

## MCA Sets Four More

Another cassette single supporter, MCA, is coming with four new releases in the format. They are "I Do You" by the Jets, "Heaven Is A Place On Earth" by Belinda Carlisle, "Freedom" by Alice Cooper, and "The One I Love" by R.E.M.

A generic point-of-purchase poster plugging the configuration is being developed by MCA, for distribution to retail by all labels backing the cassette . . . oops, cassette single.

## Developments At The Tower

The new Capitol albums by the Kane Gang ("Miracle") and Bert Robinson ("No More Cold Nights") carry a \$6.98 suggested list price. It's part of the label's new program for developing acts.

## Aretha Respects Her Roots

Aretha Franklin's gospel album, "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism," is scheduled for release by Arista in late October. Among the tracks recorded live at Detroit's New Bethel Baptist Church: "Oh Happy Day," "The Lord's Prayer," and "I've Been In The Storm Too Long."

## Peppers Plan A Skate Party

The Red Hot Chili Peppers bare (almost) all for their new EMI/Manhattan album, "The Uplift Mofo Party Plan." Despite an "Explicit Lyrics" warning, the jacket identifies one track only as "Special Secret Song Inside." For those who must know, it's "Party On Your Pussy."

The label is distributing promotional pens which reveal more Pepper assets, while the band has just finalized an endorsement deal with Skull skateboards.

## Ambassador Warwick At Lunch

Inner City Broadcasting President Percy Sutton hosted a special lunch for Dionne Warwick Sept. 22 in New York. The day before in Washington, she was named "Ambassador of Health" by Health Secretary Otis Bowen, in recognition of her fundraising for AIDS research.

Arista President Clive Davis and other execs from the label were at the Gotham event. A bottle of the Dionne perfume line and a copy of her "Reservations For Two" album was at every place setting.

## Garrett Takes Solo Turn On New Single

Siedah Garrett, fresh from her recording debut/duet with Michael Jackson, will sing the title song from the upcoming movie "Baby Boom," starring Diane Keaton and Sam Shepard. The song, "Ever-changing Times," will be released on Qwest/Warner Bros. October 7, to coincide with the release of the movie. Pictured with Garrett (right) is Burt Bacharach, cowriter of the song (with his wife Carole Bayer Sager.) Bacharach, Sager and David Foster produced the track.



## Short Cuts

• ROBERT PALMER sings the title track of "Sweet Lies," an upcoming release from Island Pictures. Island, the label, has the soundtrack.

• THAT PETROL EMOTION are gone from the PolyGram roster after one album, due to differences between the band and Polydor UK.

• An album of classic sessions recorded at New York's ELECTRIC LADY studios is being compiled to mark the facility's upcoming 20th anniversary.

• ELVIS COSTELLO has written "Back On My Feet" with Paul McCartney for an upcoming McC release.

• ROGER's new album on Reprise has a remake of the Temptations' "Papa Was A Rolling Stone."

• A benefit fundraiser for jazzman JACO PASTORIUS, who died Sept. 21 at age 35, is being planned by New York's Lone Star Cafe.