

'sound' waves

site "Welcome Back, Kotter," which has a real Top 40 song in the sound track, sung by a real rock veteran, John Sebastian, and a genuine movie star in the cast. So who's going to watch "WKRP" except me?

Although I certainly have nothing against "Kotter," in fact I was one of the first on my block to appreciate the show from the very first episode. But really, hasn't it degenerated by now (like "Happy Days") into nothing more than a dreadful, overblown parody of itself? Let's give the new kid a chance! Especially that cra-a-zy morning man.

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If you're looking for something more on your radio dial—especially down toward the college station end—I'd advise getting behind a syndicated program called "Thirsty Ear." This show, the alternative to the "King Biscuit Flower Hour," seeks to bring before the public performers of merit who are not as yet—and may never be—Top 40 superstars. Thus, if you're thirsty for some real music, you'll get to hear on upcoming broadcasts the likes of John Lee Hooker and Albert King, Townes Van Zandt, Fandango... and numerous others to be announced by Peter Gordon, who puts the whole thing together. Part interview, mostly music, "Thirsty Ear" already has aired such "underground" performers as Andy Pratt, Happy Traum, Spryogyra, the Dixie Dregs, Larry Gatlin and Talking Heads. If this seems like your kind of music, then get in touch with the folks at the local college station and tell them to start hooking up with "Thirsty Ear."

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You'd have to be crazy to shell out \$40 for a book, right? Well, if you're crazy about rock 'n' roll, I mean, crazy about the details, the stats then \$40 is a mere pittance in return for Joel Whitburn's *Pop Annual, 1955-1977*. As amazing as it is to contemplate, this book actually lists every record ever to hit the *Billboard Magazine* Top 10 over the last 22 years.

Within the soft covers of its 623 pages, worlds of rock 'n' roll lore is on evidence. Imagine your glee in regaling your friends with the news that "Tonight, Tonight," by the Mellow-kings, possibly the number one New York City oldie, only got to number 77



Joel Whitburn's \$50 book of lists

on the national charts, and was number 392 for 1957. If that kind of thing gets you off, then you'll feast, if not O.D., on the information conjured up just scanning a typical page, especially when you get down toward the lower numbers, and rediscover some of your all-time favorite songs, like Don French's "Lonely Saturday Night," which was number 404 for 1959, or Johnny Tillotson's "Dreamy Eyes," which was number 358 the same year.

The book is available (hard-cover edition is \$50) from Record Research Inc., P.O. Box 200, Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051.

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Did you notice Linda Ronstadt's fine cover of Elvis Costello's *Allison*? Or that the flip side of Tom Petty's single, "I Don't Know What to Say to You," is an almost perfect take-off of Bob Dylan, circa 1967.

Otherwise, upcoming this fall, expect new records from Lou Reed, The Grateful Dead, Eric Carmen, Melissa Manchester and Al Stewart, all from Arista Records. CBS is promoting Toto, a group of studio musicians from Los Angeles as their big act of the fall. While Atlantic is high on Dave Edmunds, whose band Rockpile also features Nick Lowe. Brian Ferry and Peter Tosh also are being pressed into wax at this very second. A little further off the mainstream, our friend Peter Gordon suggests a listen to Don Lang and Gove Scrivener, both on Flying Fish. Arlin Roth, on Rounder Records, is another worthwhile performer. □

In Concert

For complete and up-to-date information on tickets, times and possible cancellations, it is advisable to call the box-office.

Avery Fisher Hall 212-874-2424

10/6 — Cleo Laine & John Dankworth

Beacon Theatre 212-874-1717

10/20 — Gato Barbieri

10/21 — Ron Carter/Sonny Rollins/McCoy Tyner

10/28 — Billy Cobham

Bottom Line 212-228-7880

10/6 — Ray Baretto/Spryogyra

10/13-14 — Les McCann/Eddie Harris

10-17-18 — Devo

10/22-23 — Michael Bloomfield

Carnegie Hall 212-C17-7459

10/7 — Earl Klugh/the Brecker Brothers

10/14 The Chieftains

City Center Dance Theater 212-246-8988

Madison Square Garden 212-564-4400

10/1-2 — Commodores/O'Jays/LTD

10/8, 10/10 — Jethro Tull/Uriah Heep

11/16-17 — Queen

The Other End 212-673-7030

Palladium 212-249-8870

10/1 — Blue Oyster Cult/Thin Lizzy

10/6 — U.K./Dave Mason

10/14 — Jean Luc Ponty/the Mark Almo Band

10/20 — Kenny Loggins

10/21-22 — Heart

10/27-29, 10/31 — Frank Zappa

11/2 — Van Morrison (two shows)

Radio City Music Hall 212-246-4600

10/5-11 — Diana Ross

10/13 — Harry Chapin

Iona College 914-636-5101

Westchester County Center 914-949-89

10/11 — The Chieftains

Nanuet Star Theater 914-623-7020

9/31-10/8 — Tom Jones

10/17-22 — Lou Rawls

11/3-4 — Chuck Mangione

Rockland College Arena 914-356-465

TG's East — Greenwood Lake 914-447-2

10/6 — Robert Hunter/Peter Rowan

10/7 — Flying Burrito Brothers/The Lost

Gonzo Band

Calderone Concert Hall (Hempstead)

516-481-4400

10/27 — Jean Luc Ponty/Lake

11/8 — Robin Trower

My Father's Place 516-MA1-3830

10/5 — Proctor & Bergman

10/6 — Lost Gonzo Band

10/7 — Papa John Creach

10/8 — Woodstock Mountain Review

10/9 — Commander Cody

10/13-14 — Robert Hunter/Stonegroun

10/15 Les McCann

10/26 — Carl Perkins

Jones Beach Theater (Wantagh)

516-221-1000

Nassau Coliseum 516-794-9100

10/6-7 — Steve Martin/Steve Goodman

11/12 — Aerosmith

Westbury Music Fair 516-333-0533

Meadowlands (New Jersey) 201-935-85

New Haven Coliseum 203-772-4330

Oakdale Musical Theatre

Wallingford, Conn. 203-265-1501

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TOP 10 ALBUMS

This Last Weeks in
week week Top 100

Exile (Warner Bros.)	1	4	20	Grease	Soundtrack (RSO)
A Taste of Honey (Capitol)	2	1	5	Don't Look Back	Boston (Epic)
Olivia Newton-John (RSO)	3	3	13	Foreigner	Double Vision (Atlantic)
Commodores (Motown)	4	8	4	Who Are You	The Who (MCA)
Avolta/Newton-John (RSO)	5	2	16	Some Girls	Rolling Stones (Atlantic)
Boston (Epic)	6	5	9	Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band	Soundtrack (RSO)
Foreigner (Atlantic)	7	7	8	Blam	Brothers Johnson (A&M)
Nick Gilder (Chrysalis)	8	9	18	A Taste of Honey	A Taste of Honey (Capitol)
	9	12	11	Nightwatch	Kenny Loggins (Columbia)
Andy Gibb (RSO)	10	6	19	Natural High	Commodores (Motown)

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