

Townes Van Zandt due at The Flick

By **DIANE GOLDBLUM**
Special to The Miami News

Townes Van Zandt is a modern folksinger in the classical tradition: quiet, understated and down-to-earth. To the above string of adjectives I might also add another, unknown. However, this week Miami will be in for a rare treat as Van Zandt settles in for a stint at The Flick.

Judging from his recordings and club reviews, Van Zandt should by all rights become a major force in folk music. Although bigtime success has thus far eluded him, Van Zandt is nevertheless building a large following of devoted fans who recognize his recordings as the work of an artist.

Appearing with him this week is another folk artist Chris Smithers.

The Flick is open Wednesday through Sunday with two shows nightly, 8:30 and 10:30 and a late show added Friday and Saturday nights.

Other musical events this weekend . . . The Amboy Dukes, Ramatam, Dr. Hook

First JFK show cancelled over

ROCK music

and the Medicine Show and The Eric Quincy Tate Band appear this Saturday night at the Hollywood Sportatorium. Tickets are \$3 advance and \$4 at the door. Concert starts at 7:30.

Bits . . . According to reports, material for the next Allman Brothers album is ready for recording. The album is tentatively set for a January release date. After the album is completed and the group resumes touring they will perform some new material in addition to their regular act . . . Wet Willie's second album has been renamed Wet Willie II and is scheduled for release on Sept. 5 . . . Livingston Taylor is recording a new album on the Capricorn label due for the fall . . . Eric Quincy Tate, performing here this weekend have a new single, "Brown Sugar," penned by John Mayall . . . White Witch (reviewed last week in this column) are in the midst

of their first tour. By the way, the group hails from Tampa.

It would be a temptation upon hearing that Groundhogs are from England to pass them off as another rock band in the vein of the illustrious Mr. Stewart and Faces or a heavy rock group like Cream. However, Groundhogs won't allow that and a listen to their latest album, "Who Will Save the World? The Mighty Groundhogs!" shows why.

In addition to a large dose of rock music and avant garde rock in the tradition of

Emerson, Lake and Palmer, the album also contains elements of put-on and some deep philosophical lyrics. Perhaps the best illustration of this is the cut "Amazing Grace," a traditional song performed on the very untraditional melotron.

The group has been in existence for several years now, but still remains unknown to the American public. If this album catches on and is a success — perhaps they will pave the way for a new type of British group.

The name Lani Hall is hardly a household word, but chances are that her voice is more familiar. For five years she was the lead vocalist for Sergio Mendez and Brazil '66.

Now Lani has left that super successful group and is out on her own. Her first

solo album "Sun Down Lady" is a successful blending of those qualities that we've come to expect from her: good material, expert arrangements and a lovely voice.

On this album the emphasis is on pop music and a heavy dosage of Elton John-Bernie Taupin, Paul Simon, Cat Stevens, Don McLean and even a song written by Lani herself. The songs are stripped of the rock sound and given a new, softer one that is very appealing. Miss Hall has a gentle, serene voice that makes any song a pleasure to listen to. Among the standouts are "Tiny

Dancer," "Come Down in Time" and "Ocean Song."

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