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COVER: Photograph of David Letterman by Deborah Feingold, New York, April 1985.

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RANDOM NOTES

BY MERLE GINSBERG



JIMMY

Only surgery could separate Jimmy Page from a guitar. After the Firm's concert at New York's Madison Square Garden, he barely took time to hoist a few tall ones at the Lone Star Cafe, a Texas-style hangout, before jumping onstage to trade licks with bassist Jaco Pastorius and his band. The crowd responded the only way they could — with a whole lotta love.



HALLOVER THE PLACE

"I think, like, when you're sixteen, you come to a real understanding of life, as opposed to when you're fourteen and you complain a lot," muses actor Anthony Michael Hall. If the seventeen-year-old talks like he just stepped out of a John Hughes movie, there's a reason. *Weird Science*, his third film with Hughes (*The Breakfast Club*, *Sixteen Candles*), will be released this August. Michael, who comes from a showbiz family, started making commercials when he was eight. He's grown up fast, literally — six inches since *The Breakfast Club*. And he's so mature, he's not upset that he lost the lead in Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket* to Matthew Modine.



Lady Soul gives Wolf a push

Peter Wolf recorded a duet called "Push" with Aretha Franklin for her new album. "Every one of her takes is a unique performance. It's on such a high level," says Wolf. He'll be working on his new LP soon and is itching to tour. "Lip-syncing to a little box in my room does get monotonous."

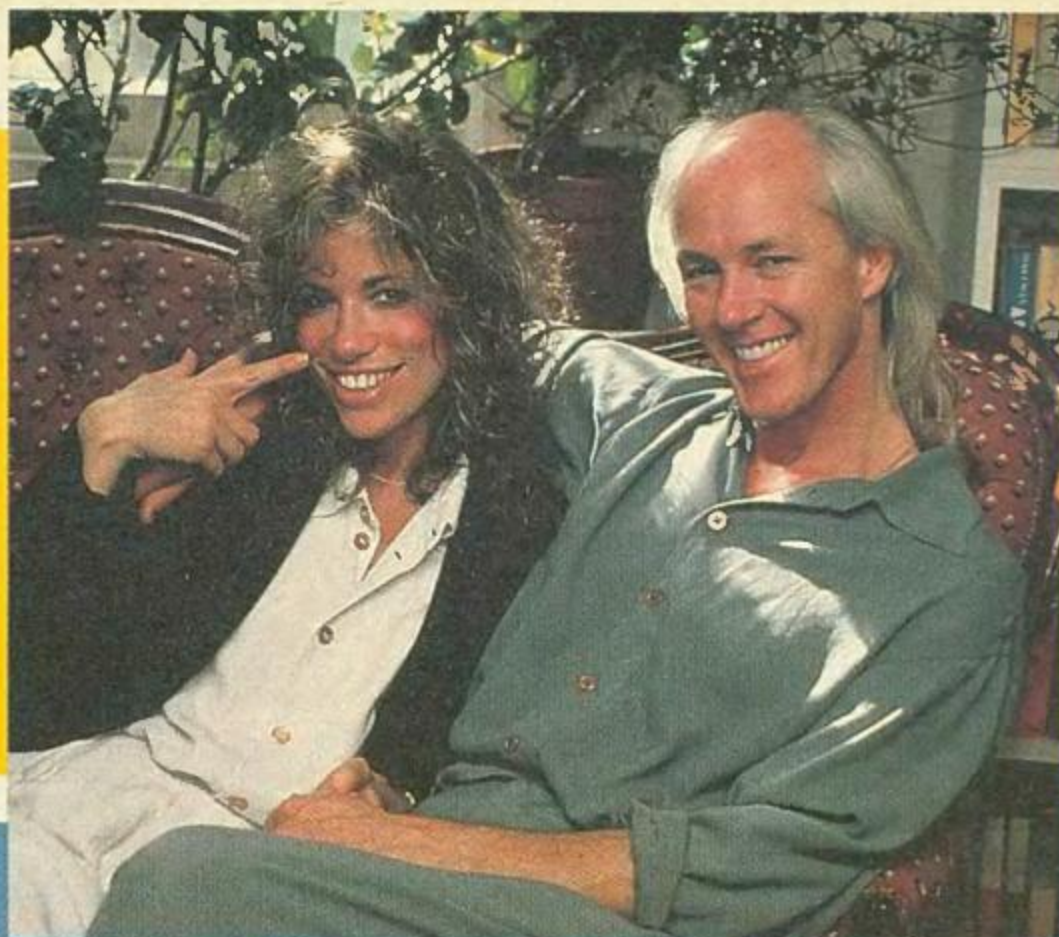


EX-PUNKQUEEN

You know punk is history when X's Exene Cervenka cops a Rita Hayworth look. But X is alive; they'll tour this summer after their LP, *Ain't Love Grande!*, is released. The group worked with Accept producer Michael Wagener. "He's not just heavy metal," says Exene. "He's makin' X sound like X should — big." On a smaller scale are the folky-sounding Knitters, an X spinoff featuring Exene and Blaster Dave Alvin; their first LP, *Poor Little Critter on the Road*, is out now. This fall Exene will be seen emoting for director William Friedkin in an episode of CBS' new *Twilight Zone*.

JUST ANOTHER DRAB HOMEBODY?

"He's teaching me about rhythm, and I'm turning him on to a few good books." That's how **Carly Simon** sees her relationship with her new fiancé, drummer **Russ Kunkel**, who's pounded the skins for her ex, **James Taylor**, **Linda Ronstadt** and **Jackson Browne**. "We've known each other fourteen years, through both of our marriages. We always liked each other. We got to be better friends — what can I say?" They'll get married this summer, after the release of Carly's next LP. She makes her acting debut this month in *Perfect*, in which she angrily tells **ROLLING STONE** reporter **John Travolta**, "I read that shit you wrote about me."



Mike Campell, Tom Petty, Stan Lynch and Howie Epstein (from left)

UP ON THE ROOF

The folks in St. Petersburg, Florida, got lucky when **Tom Petty** and the **Heartbreakers** started getting down up on the roof of the **Don Ce Sar Hotel** one sunny afternoon. It seems Petty and band, on a little pre-tour break, decided to have a little fun and re-create that famous scene from the **Beatles** film *Let It Be*. Tom hadn't played with the band since he smashed his hand last fall, so a little rehearsing was in order. They lugged their equipment to the roof, and played a half-hour of neopsychedelic Southern rock, Petty style. An Orlando TV station managed to capture some footage via helicopter, and the crowd from a nearby beach gave the rooftop rebels a standing ovation. The impromptu performance ended abruptly, however, when the local police politely asked them not to come around there no more (at least not without a permit). The band has since adopted a more down-to-earth approach. They hit the road for their *Southern Accents* tour, which will continue all summer long.

