

>>> **CRÛE SUES**

Mötley Crüe has filed a lawsuit against Carl Stubner, a manager who represents Crüe drummer Tommy Lee, seeking more than \$20 million in damages. The suit alleges that Stubner, who serves as CEO of Sanctuary Artist Management, devised a "self-serving scheme" that promoted disastrous reality TV shows and took Lee away from touring with the band. The band seeks damages for lost earnings, lost profits and diminished brand value. Also named as defendants are Sanctuary Group and Sanctuary Artist Management. In a statement, Sanctuary Artist Management said, "Mr. Stubner and Sanctuary will vociferously defend this lawsuit, which is utterly and entirely without merit or basis."

>>> **LUCKY PREPS DENIM TOUR**

Rock'n'roll-rooted and vintage-inspired Lucky Brand Jeans kicks off its Denim Highway Tour June 26 at its corporate office in Vernon, Calif., with a live performance by Mexico's Kinky. The bus will then trek across the United States, visiting universities, summer hot spots and music festivals.

>>> **WMG PARTNERS CORDLESS, RYKODISC**

Warner Music Group is partnering its digital label Cordless with Rykodisc, a move intended to give Cordless artists access to Rykodisc's staff and distribution while enhancing Rykodisc's digital offerings. As part of the restructuring, Kill Rock Stars founder Slim Moon has been named senior director of A&R and artist development for Rykodisc. He was named A&R executive with Warner imprint Nonesuch last year.



THE TRAVELING WILBURYS

GLOBAL BY MARK SUTHERLAND

DAD-ROCK DEBUT

Wilburys Travel To Top Of Charts Around The World

LONDON—Dads across the globe have united to return the Traveling Wilburys to chart success on the back of huge Father's Day sales.

"The Traveling Wilburys Collection" (Rhino), which compiles the two albums by the supergroup featuring Bob Dylan, Jeff Lynne, Tom Petty and the late George Harrison and Roy Orbison, scored five No. 1 debuts around the world. The package, which also includes bonus tracks and a DVD, hit the top spot in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and Norway, and debuted in the top 10 in the United States, Denmark, Germany and Spain and on Billboard's European Top 100 Albums chart.

In the United Kingdom the compilation moved more than 110,000 copies in week one, according to the Official U.K. Charts Co., knocking Rihanna from the top and eclipsing first-week sales for Bon Jovi's "Lost Highway."

The original albums, 1988's "Traveling Wilburys, Vol. 1" and 1990's amusingly titled follow-up "Traveling Wilburys, Vol. 3," had modest U.K. chart peaks of No. 16 and No. 14, respectively. In the United States, the original issues climbed respectively to No. 3 and No. 11. Both were consistent catalog sellers before their deletion a decade ago.

"We anticipated a top five record," says Dan Chalmers, London-based VP of Rhino U.K.-International. "But Bon Jovi was a big challenge for us. Once we saw the first midweek on Tuesday was No. 1, we responded to demand and invested more money in TV advertising, which paid off with 30,000 sales across the weekend."

Rob Campkin, head of music for U.K. retailer Virgin Megastores, puts the sales surge down to a mixture of pent-up demand, the lure of additional

DVD and audio content, and clever, Father's Day-targeted marketing.

"For the last 10 years, we've had fans of Dylan, the Beatles, ELO, Tom Petty and Roy Orbison asking for it in-store," Campkin says. "So there was no risk of us underestimating demand. It was good that they put it out for Father's Day to coincide with the extra footfall in-store, but any week of the year it would still have done well."

That's borne out by the album's performance in Australia, where it shipped gold (35,000 units) in its first week, despite Father's Day not being due Down Under until Sept. 2. Sydney-based Warner Music Australia VP of marketing and promotions Mark Ashbridge says a further marketing campaign is planned around that date.

"We expect this to go right through until Christmas for us," says Gavin Ward, Sydney-based managing director of the 200-store Leading Edge retail chain, noting its sales were also at full price: \$27 Australian (\$23) for the standard edition, \$32 Australian (\$27) for the deluxe.

In the States, the album's achievements were only slightly more modest, debuting on The Billboard 200 at No. 9 with sales of 77,000, according to Nielsen SoundScan. It also claimed the Top Digital Albums throne for the week and arrived at No. 2 on Top Internet Albums.

Rhino Entertainment VP of marketing Sig Sigworth believes the boxed-set-style packaging of the deluxe edition increased its draw as a perfect Father's Day gift. "When you look at the demographic of these artists individually and collectively, it's certainly a male-skewing demo," he says. "And giving a package like this is better than just giving a single CD. It's something special." ...

Additional reporting by Christie Eliezer in Melbourne, Paul Pomfret in London and Susan Visakowitz in New York.

UPFRONT

LICENSING BY KEN TUCKER

Tunes In The Forecast

BILLBOARD EXCLUSIVE

The Weather Channel Enters The Record Business

It's almost as familiar as the Weather Channel's (TWC) man-on-the-beach, Jim Cantore: the music that plays in the background six times per hour during the network's signature "Local on the 8s."

This fall, Billboard has learned, two packages of that music will be available to consumers when Nashville-based Midas Records releases "The Weather Channel Presents: Best of Smooth Jazz" and "Best of Instrumental Classic Rock." While licensing details and track listings are still being worked out, music played on the channel includes such acts as Pink Floyd, Eric Clapton, Nancy Wilson and Trey Anastasio. Though the 25-year-old network has previously licensed items ranging from apparel to weather radios to umbrellas, this marks the first time it has entered the licensed-entertainment category.

The move is the brainchild of TWC VP of licensing and merchandising Shari Pace and Ken Markman, a principal with KKM Global Brand Strategies, the licensing agency for TWC.

The music has long been a source of interest for viewers. "People have been writing in for years to ask where they can get the songs," Pace says, noting that the network publishes monthly playlists on its Web site.

But TWC waited for the right opportunity before it expanded its brand into the record business. "There's been some demand built up over the years, and that's a good foundation for us to launch on," Pace says.

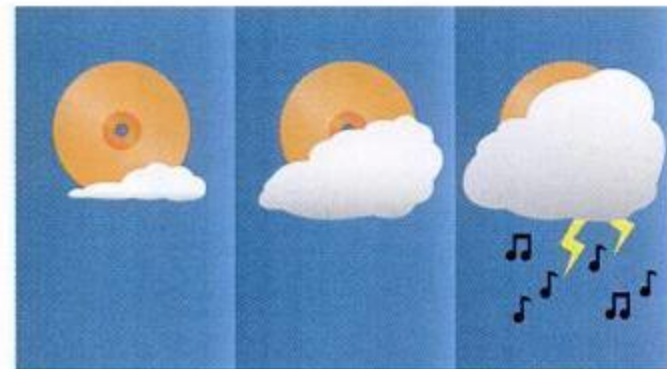
Nashville-based entertainment marketing and artist management firm the Consortium, which was called in to connect TWC with a label partner, identified client Midas.

Robert Morrison, head of sales and operations for the Koch-distributed label, says the music will be available via traditional retailers plus several non-traditional outlets with whom TWC is already working.

Consortium partner Mike Martinovich says the albums, tentatively scheduled for mid-September release, will be marketed a number of ways, including utilizing the crawl that appears across the bottom of the TV screen during "Local on the 8s."

While details are still being worked out, the releases are also expected to be marketed through point-of-purchase tie-ins with other TWC-licensed products as well as through the network's radio and online divisions.

The network, which reaches 93 million U.S. households, plans to release additional music packages in the future.



HOME FRONT

360 DEGREES OF BILLBOARD

MAULDIN, ATLANTIC UNITE FOR SCREAM STAR JV

A new joint venture between music impresario Michael Mauldin and Atlantic Records called Scream Star Entertainment topped headlines at the What Teens Want Conference, held June 18-19 in New York.

The Scream tour, a multi-act hip-hop bill headlined by T.I. and Ciara, is the first project under the initiative. Also on the Scream lineup are Young Joc, Lloyd and T-Pain.

Mauldin's Mauldin Brand Agency will produce and market the 24-city trek, which is expected to stop in Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Miami, Detroit, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

a producer, record executive and entrepreneur. In 1995, he became the first African-American president at Columbia Records, heading its black music division. He is also the father of Jermaine Dupri, president of Island Records' Urban Music division.

Now in its seventh installment, What Teens Want explores opportunities for marketing and advertising to teenagers using music, film, TV, sports and media. Attendance for the latest edition of the day-and-a-half-long event—which is hosted by Adweek, Brandweek, Mediaweek, Billboard, The Hollywood Reporter and Nielsen Entertainment, and presented by the N—grew to a new high of 350.