

Who should take the rap for Milli Vanilli?

by Robb Frederick
The Collegian

Quick, everybody run for cover. That seems to be the common reaction since last week's announcement that Milli Vanilli members Rob Pilatus and Fab Morvan didn't sing a single note on their Grammy winning debut LP *Girl You Know It's True*. Since the disclosure, the duo has lost their best new artist Grammy, claimed they were victims of a "pact with the devil," and gave an unimpressive demonstration of their true vocal abilities.

Public opinion has unreservedly condemned the duo, who have announced plans for a new record with their true voices. But the blame shouldn't rest entirely on Milli Vanilli.

The back-up singers who actually sang on *Girl You Know...* are also to blame for allowing the record to be credited to Pilatus and Morvan. These vocalists not only sold-out their dignity and self-respect, they significantly contributed to the scandal by allowing the mis-credited LP to be released.

The band's producer, Frank Farian, clearly knew about the true vocals, but he only exposed the hoax after a nasty departure from the Milli Vanilli entourage. Farian and the band members have placed the blame on executives at Arista Records, who supposedly pressured the band to continue lip-synching.

The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, which chooses and presents the Grammy awards each year, is also at blame. The Academy voted Milli Vanilli Best New Artist in February after the band actually lip-synched a performance during the awards presentation show.

This list is not complete without placing some blame on the fans of Milli Vanilli. These same fans have flooded radio station call-in lines and demanded compensation for their misleading record purchases. One station actually accepted trade-in offers for *Girl You Know...* compact discs and got responses from 150 listeners. Milli Vanilli fans have a right to be upset, but maybe they should have spent some more time looking into the group. After all, these guys can barely

Liner Notes

...speak the English language, so how did they sing it so clearly? And if *Girl You Know...* was successful because of its musical content, why should it matter who actually sang the lyrics anyway?

This scandal has done more than ruin the short careers of two "ghost" vocalists, it has served as a reminder that the music industry has become a purely commercialized business which places more emphasis on achieving platinum sales status than producing original, inspired music that might not sell as well.

Now that that's over with...

- George Michael and former bandmate Andrew Ridgeley will reunite at the Rock In Rio II festival in January, marking the first Wham! performance since 1986. The pair will perform at least two Wham! hits, but vow the reunion is a one-time event only. Santana, Faith No More and Debbie Gibson will also appear at the festival.

- Ron Wood will need another six to eight weeks for injuries from a recent auto accident to heal. The Rolling Stones guitarist is attempting to direct traffic after being involved in an accident when another car struck him, breaking both legs. Reports say Wood is in good spirits and quote him as saying "I've been prescribed a pint of Guinness a day - that can't be bad!"

- Rolling Stones bassist Bill Wyman has ended his 17-month marriage to 20-year-old Mandy Smith. Wyman, 54 began dating the model when she was 13.

- A new track by 10,000 Maniacs will not appear as planned on the forthcoming *Tame Yourself*, a compilation LP benefiting People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals. The band's label, Elektra, has stated that none of the label's artists may appear on benefit works.

- Queen's latest, *Innuendo*, will hit stores on Feb. 5. The band's new label, Hollywood Records, will also release Queen's entire catalog on compact disc at that time.

- Paul McCartney has been in the studio collaborating with conductor/composer Carl Davis. The pair is working on an orchestral piece that will be performed next year at a celebration marking the Liverpool Philharmonic's 150th year.

Entertainment

Collins tour comes back to life New disc captures phenomenal 1990 tour

by Greg Geibel
The Collegian

From February to October of 1990, "Mr. Collins's Galloping Horses" played 127 shows around the world. This phenomenal tour has been captured on Phil Collins's latest disc, *Serious Hits...Live!*

This 15 song collection contains classic hits such as "Sussudio," "Easy Lover," "Against All Odds," and "You Can't Hurry Love," as well as "Do You Remember?," "Another Day in Paradise," and "Something Happened On The Way To Heaven," from Collins' previous *...But Seriously* CD.

The recording quality of the CD is excellent, and each musician can be heard, although none are overpowering.

Unlike a studio album, a live album captures the nuances and moods of the performers. *Serious Hits...Live!* has captured top notch musicians like Leland Sklar on bass, Daryl Stuermer on

guitar, Brad Cole on keyboards, and Chester Thompson on drums, giving a little extra more than what was recorded on the studio album.

The album has been recorded in such a way that there are no fade-outs between the songs.

The disc's excellent recording quality captures the nuances and moods of each performer

The songs just flow from one to the next with the crowd continually cheering.

"In The Air Tonight" is one of the definite high points on the album.

The moody mysteriousness of the song is captured perfectly, and due to the pure recording quality, the drum kick makes for a truly amazing song. (I have found that

this song, particularly off of this CD, is best when it is played loud. Go ahead, crank it up, your neighbors will love it.)

The CD comes with a 24 page booklet highlighting the concert. The pictures of Collins, The Serious Guys, The Seriouettes, The Phoenix Horns and the

elaborate stage setup help to capture the magic and enthusiasm of the tour.

Part of the magic of the tour is captured right on the booklet. By flipping through the pages in a fan-like motion, the carousel in the lower right hand corner will close right in front of your eyes.

Keeping with the tour, the CD ends with "Take Me Home," capturing Collins's repertoire with the audience.

Serious Hits...Live! captures the enormous talent, energy, and enthusiasm of musicians willing to give and the accolades of a very appreciative audience. For those that missed the show, this is a definite must.

Next week: *The Collegian's* music critics look back on the year's best releases.

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