

TDFI Tries Again

Plagued by delays and criticism, the French satellite TDFI was finally due to be launched this week (October 27). However, legal conditions for operators are yet to be finalised.

TV stations that are interested in the satellite include Canal Plus, TFI and La Sept. Robert Maxwell and Sylvio Berlusconi are also believed to be interested, and a TDFI spokesperson has hinted that there is a consortium examining the viability of providing 24-hour music programming via the satellite.

Meanwhile, critics of TDFI say that because it is limited to five channels it is open to competition from the Astra and Eutelsat satellites.

Users will be able to pick up programmes with a satellite dish less than 50 centimetres in diameter.

But TDFI has already cost around Ffr 5,000 million and has dragged on for 10 years. The launch of TDF2 is planned for spring 1989 and will cost Ffr 2,000 million. ■



Olivia Newton-John and Terence Trent D'Arby together with Jean-Paul Bauderoux (Pretz NRJ) on the left and Max Guazzini (MD-NRJ) at the studios of the French private FM network NRJ recently.

S P O T L I G H T

Certain General's Cabin Fever

by Heidi Elizon



Certain General, a New York-based rock group, have just released *Cabin Fever*, their first album with Barclay Records in France.

Vocalist Parker Du Lany wrote the 10 songs with guitarist Sprague Hollander who also produced the LP in New York. The rest of the band consists of Robert Ashley Palacious on bass, Drew Vogelmann on drums, Shannon Curry-Laurel on piano, William Shimur on accordion and Russel George on fiddle.

There are echoes of Bruce Springsteen in songs like *Will You?* and *Susie's Writing*. The track with perhaps the best chance of chart success is *My Junkyard Heart*. It has a memorable refrain, "Love's The Perfect Crime", and is reminiscent of Los

Libos. The next number *The Heartrace* is a country-influenced style love song with some cynical lyrics: "I think I love you, but it's only lust".

Certain General will perform 13 concerts during a tour of France from December 1-17. ■

HOT
BREAKOUTS

National hits bound to explode

Paco Amor De Mis Amores (Polygram)

Mylene Farmer Pourvu Qu'Elles Soient Douces (Polydor)

Thierry Minel Siencet Qui Vous (Fonema)

Jacques Brel Ne Me Quitte Pas (Barclay)

New Record Labels Launched

Two new record labels have been launched by major record companies: Wanted is on EMI/Pathe and Nord-Sud is formed by Barclay Records.

Wanted was created by Marc Brian, formerly with the Commodore label. Brian says its objective is to develop a French catalogue independent of existing EMI/Pathe artists and to cultivate the careers of European artists in

France. Wanted is also to take charge of established EMI/Pathe star Gueesch Patti.

Barclay's Managing Director Philippe Constantin decided to start Nord-Sud to give alternative French and European groups the security of an autonomous small label and the backing of a major outfit. Signings include Touché Et Arab, a Swiss techno-rack group, and Maria È from Toulouse. ■

Protest At FNAC Offer

France's leading record retailer, FNAC, has withdrawn an offer to customers which allowed them to exchange CDs within 15 days of purchase following strong protest from record companies.

The companies say the offer was against the law because it did not have their approval. And they say it encouraged illegal recordings of CDs.

Jean Noel Martin, lawyer for the industry body SNEP: "The

law on this matter is very clear. The exchange or rental of photographic material needs the authorisation of the producer. FNAC did not apply for that and they made a mistake".

The offer was advertised in newspapers on October 20. Two days later, a notice was placed in the newspaper Liberation, notifying FNAC clients that the offer was suspended. ■

Cable Awards

The first Mercure Awards for France's most successful cable cities have been announced. The award for the city network with the highest percentage of subscribers was presented to Metz, where 50% of cabled households have subscribed to the cable service since its installation in 1980. Nice and Rennes, both of which carry 20 stations, won awards for

the best range of channels. The Mercure for the best local channel was awarded to Paris Premiere on the Paris network. All the winning networks are run by France's three biggest cable operators: Generale des Eaux, Communication Developpement and Lyonnaise Communications. ■

P L A Y L I S T R E P O R T

Media Control France
From the airplay hitparades provided by Media Control France. For more info please contact Media Control France 29 Blvd Tautel - 67000 Strasbourg - France - tel (88)366580.

- Radios Peripheriques (AM Stations)**
1. Michel Sardou - La Merse En Qui Guide
 2. Etienne Daho - Blue Comme Toi
 3. The Forestier - Antidote
 4. Tracy Chapman - A Revolution
 5. Mylene Farmer - Pourvu Qu'Elles Soient Douces
 6. New Do! - Les Amours
 7. Charline Correia - Aime Moi Encore
 8. Elton John - I Don't Wanna Go On
 9. Florence Pagny - L'Amour N'est Pas Regret
 10. Gold - Ho Ho Holiday
 11. Yves Fassin - Héros Et Jolies
 12. Kiki - Ça Fait Du Bon
 13. Pierre Bachelet - C'est Pour Elle
 14. Shania - Pour Toi Je Renouève
 15. Starminal - Les Oies Courent Les Amers
 16. Laurence Voulky - La Nuit Douce

P L A Y L I S T R E P O R T

- Chico Buarque**
18. *Brazil - I One You Nothing*
 19. *Michael Jackson - Another Part Of Me*
 20. *Chico Buarque - Un Via No! Diferente*
- Rickie FM**
1. Mylene Farmer - Pourvu Qu'Elles Soient Douces
 2. Chico Buarque - Un Via No! Diferente
 3. Michael Jackson - Another Part Of Me
 4. Terence Trent D'Arby - Doesa Like A Sister
 5. A-Ha - Truly
 6. The Passions - Love
 7. Yaz - The Only Way Is Up
 8. U2 - Desire
 9. George Michael - Monkey
 10. Pat Shop Boys - Dennis Donovan
 11. Tracy Chapman - A Revolution
 12. Art Garfunkel - The Way We Were
 13. Bros - I Wanna Be A Virgin
 14. The Collins - A Groovy Kind Of Love
 15. David Coverly - Heroine
 16. Kylie Minogue - Go To The Sun
 17. Florence Pagny - L'Amour N'est Pas Regret
 18. Milli Vanilli - Girl You Know It's True
 19. France - Ça Fait Du Bon
 20. Paco Amor De Mis Amores

New RAI Series Combines Music & Drama

by David Stanfield

Rome - Legendary rock and soul man Solomon Burke and Willy DeVille are to star in the first show of a new TV series co-produced by state broadcaster Rai and Eteppi Films.

Under the title 'Videofe!', the series will be made up of 30 to 40 minute films which will have a story line and music content. Two musicians will take leading roles in each episode.

Although secrecy surrounds the programmes, it is known that the first pilot, featuring Burke and DeVille, will be a detective story called 'Body And Soul'. Scriptwriter Francesco Nardella describes the project as "a long

video clip integrated with dialogue and music". 'Videofe!' is produced by Leo Pescarolo and Guido De Laurentis and is expected to be screened in seven, as yet undisclosed, European countries, starting early 1989. ■

Joni Mitchell Wins Tenko Prize

San Remo - Joni Mitchell has been presented with this year's Premio Tenko award. Making the award, Club Tenko's President, Marco Rambaldi, said: "Joni Mitchell was chosen for a life dedicated to music and without thought of commercial gain". Established 15 years ago, Club Tenko aims at keeping alive the memory of the Italian singer-

songwriter Tenko who committed suicide in 1967.

The organisers of Club Tenko who, along with the artists involved, work on a voluntary basis, organise a three-day October Festival every year at which the winner of the Tenko prize is announced. Past winners include Tom Waits and Leonard Cohen as well as artists from Cuba, Russia, France, Spain, Argentina and Brazil.

Italian artists are honoured at the Festival by the presentation of the Targa Tenko awards which are presented by a jury of music journalists. This year's winners were Francesco De Gregori, best album (*Terra Di Nessuno*); Ivano Fossati, best song (*Questi Posti Davanti Al Mare*); Teresa De Sio, best song in dialect (*A Nera E O Sole*); Fiorella Manca, best interpretation (*Canzoni Per Parlare*); and Mariella Nava for best new work (*Per Pauro E Per Amore*). ■

S P O T L I G H T

Gianni Nocenzi - Classic Modernism

by David Stanfield



Gianni Nocenzi is perhaps Italy's first real pioneer of new age music. His first solo album for the Virgin Venture label, *Empusa*, explodes the myth that modern Italian music is limited to Latin love songs. The LP delivers 36 minutes of artistic and technical excellence.

Born in Marino, near Rome, the classically trained Nocenzi began his career by playing keyboards with the Italian group Banco, famous in the 70s for their own brand of 'progressive' rock. But Nocenzi's constant search for new horizons eventually led him to a solo career.

He made a working alliance with Akai Professional in Tokyo and then, armed with the necessary expertise and a range of Akai's sophisticated equipment, went into town Easy Studios in Rome to compose, arrange, perform, produce and mix the instrumental LP, *Empusa*.

Nocenzi's main inspiration comes from Bartok, Chopin, Stravinsky and Schoenberg, but although these classical influences show through, the music content is wide and very modern. Nocenzi: "By using sam-

pling, I can join the wave forms of a clarinet or bassoon and duplicate them until I have eight clarinets or 10 bassoons. I can add a muted trumpet, plus a cello played with the heel of the bow, and make all this become one sound".

Nocenzi's signing to Virgin Venture has thrust him on to an international market. "I'm not a snob, but it is nice to know that my music will not bounce back as soon as it reaches the Alps. I like the idea that my record will be listened to in Tokyo, Hamburg, Manchester, Lyons and Geneva as well as Rome, Milan and Naples". ■

Radio Party

Rome - Independent rock station La Radio Citta Uno has launched a second series of party nights. These were extremely successful last year, attracting crowds of over 500 to the special evenings at the city's Blackout club. These included a U2 special, a Purple Rain Night and a Virgin video clip show. The new party season starts with the theme "It Was Summer" featuring all this year's summer hits. ■

'Fantastico' Wins Ratings

Rome - State-controlled RAI 1 has won the first round of the autumn TV ratings battle with the Saturday evening variety show 'Fantastico'. The first show attracted 12.6 million viewers, while on Berlusconi's private channel, Canale 5, the firm 'Rocky LV' was watched by 7.8 million.

'Fantastico' is presented by Enrico Montesano and singer Anna Oxa. Dianne Warwick, Phil Collins and Italy's Zucchero are among the artists scheduled to appear on the programme, which will run until January. ■

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National hits bound to explode

Jovanotti Ragge '87 (PolyGram/ibiza)

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Lucio Dalla & Gianni Morandi Dimme Dimme (RCA/BMG)

OST Competition

Trento - An international competition to compose a soundtrack for the new film *Wenders* movie has attracted 340 entrants from across Europe. The competition is called 'Trento Cinema: La Colonna Sonora'. Five compositions will be chosen for a record by Dischi Ricordi, and the winner will receive L 5 million. ■