

PANTS

A Randy Newman Newsletter and Journal - Number 4

"I'm gonna take off my pants!" - RN

Welcome to my **PANTS!** The only Randy Newman Newsletter I know of.

Issue Number 4. August 2001. Seattle, Washington, USA. Home of grunge, burial place of Jimi Hendrix, and a place that does not get as much rain as you are lead to believe.

Written, edited, blah blah blah, by Gary Norris (norrisc@cojk.com) ©All rights ridiculous.



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LIVING DANGEROUSLY

I wasn't gonna do this again until October, but I got all excited about *Ragtime* coming out in France! So this issue won't be as big as it was going to be. The response to this newsletter is encouraging, and I have heard from many people I did not hear from before. A special "thank you" to Jim Coan for posting it at randynewman.com. So, on I go. And I thank you (you know who you are) for your comments. And if you think this newsletter sucks, I would like to hear from **you** too. Also, I want to apologize for all the typos in the last newsletter. I hurried, as I am doing now.

Also... I mentioned The Beach Boy's (Bruce Johnston) song, "Disney Girls" in the last issue while I was trying hard to make a point about Randy's Disney work. Here are the lyrics (without permission) of that special song. It's on one of the very best of the Beach Boy's albums, *Surf's Up*:

Clearing skies and drying eyes now I see your smile.
Darkness goes and softness shows a changing style.
Just in time, words that rhyme, well bless your soul.
Now I'll fill your hands with kisses and a Tootsie Roll.

Reality, it's not for me and it makes me laugh.
But fantasy world and Disney Girls, I'm comin' back.

Patti Page and summer days on old Cape Cod.
Happy times and making wine in my garage.
Country shade and lemonade, guess I'm slowin' down.
It's a turn-back world with a local girl in a smaller town.
Open cars, and clearer stars that's what I lack.
But fantasy world and Disney Girls, I'm comin' back.

Mom! Hi, Rick and Dave! Hi, Pop! Well Good Mornin', Mom!
Love, get up! Guess what? I'm in love with a girl I found.
She's really swell 'cause she likes church bingo chances and old time dances.

All my life I spent the nights with dreams of you.
The warmth I missed for the things I wished are comin' true.
I got my love to give and a place to live, guess I'm gonna stay.
It'd be a peaceful life with a forever wife and a kid some day.
It's early nights and pillow fights and your soft laugh.
But fantasy world and Disney Girls, I'm comin' back.

Written by: Bruce Johnston

Produced by: Bruce Johnston

Recording date: 1971

Time: 4:03

Originally appeared on: *Surf's Up*

Subsequently appeared on: *Ten Years of Harmony*; *Good Vibrations* box set

http://www.cabinessence.com/brian/tracks/files/d/disney_girls.shtml

Well, here goes...

NEWS:

It looks like Randy's going into the studio again next week (8/20...) to do some more work on Disney/Pixar's *Monsters Inc*. Seems to me this thing has dragged on a bit, but what do I know. As I said before, I myself am looking forward to this one! In theatres November 2, 2001.

www.monstersinc.com

A CONFESSION -

As Randy's self-proclaimed, adopted, over-zealous maniac, archivist-in-waiting, lurker, and knucklehead, I have to confess that my biggest weakness as his archivist is the fact that: I can't read music. This is sad really. I used to have a basic understanding, but it has deteriorated over the years, and I have not really even played the piano in over 17 years. I hope to remedy this by taking a music/piano class soon. I am presently debating with myself over the importance of "writing skills" over "music skills", and as readers of this rag, you have certainly noticed I can't write for beans. So what do I do? I think I will tackle the music and worry about the writing later. I would rather learn to play "William Brown" again on the piano any day over learning better how to write (or learning how to write better) why I like the song so much. I also want to be able to play "Dexter's Tune". I will leave the journalism to the wordy ones.

DVD - RAGTIME:

I just found out (thank you Jean Francois!) that *Ragtime* is out on DVD! In France! The country that brought us the Ragtime single and "Un Samedi en Decembre" has released *Ragtime* on DVD! A favorite of many RN fans, this is a long awaited addition to the Randy Newman list of DVD titles:

Détails de l'édition :

- Zone 2 (Europe, Moyen-Orient & Japon seulement)
- Format écran : Cinemascope
- Origine : France

Bonus :

- Theatrical trailer(s)
- L'histoire de Ragtime par Philippe Carment, pianiste de jazz
- Full-screen format
- ASIN : B000056CU7

Détails de l'édition :

Format écran : Cimenascope

Origine : France

Date de parution : 17 janvier 2001

Editeur : G.C.T.H.V.

Présentation : Snap Case

Format image :

Full Screen (Standard) - 1.33:1

Zone et formats son :

Zone : Region 2

Couches : Dual

Sous-titres : Français

Bonus :

- Theatrical trailer(s)
- L'histoire de Ragtime par Philippe Carment, pianiste de jazz
- Full-screen format

You'll notice there ain't nothin' new for us Randy fans. And I doubt if the US version will have anything extra either. Rhino is still sitting on the CD soundtrack/score version,

which might have some extra tunes added. He did some nifty early demos of the theme and there are some extra cues that might see the light of day, but in all fairness, the LP is pretty damn good and tight as it is. A great album! I am trying to get them to add some photos I took at the sessions (one of which is on the box set and the other is at randyneuman.com) but I don't know what Rhino has planned. They don't talk to me anymore. I get too excited. Like a poodle. Like a French poodle.

MORE DVD:

What the hell happened to the "Randy Newman Live" DVD from Rhino?

<http://www.rhino.com/index.html>

TV: Popular Music - Soundtrack for the Century

Randy was recently (August 15-16, 2001) **not** featured in a very decent BBC produced 8-part series on the Bravo network, *The Popular Song - Soundtrack of the Century*. This fairly comprehensive series features the great Irving Berlin, George Gerswhin, etc. right on up to the present. They completely skipped over the career and successes of my favorite missing-link between Sinatra and Elvis: Johnnie Ray. But this is something we Johnnie Ray fans are used to. But this has nothing to do with Randy, so I won't go there.

The listings for the series *suggested* that Randy was to be featured, but I did not see no Randy, so I am not sure why I am even discussing this series here.

The series is narrated by the very talented and musical Lyle Lovett who shops at Barney's but I like him anyway, and of course he is a BIG Randy fan, which might have something to do with why Randy is featured here when he is more-often-than-not featured. Randy and Lyle made sweet music together on, "You've Got A Friend In Me", "Long Tall Texan", and sang together on the Oscar's and The Tonight Show. I ran into Lyle once in the lobby of this dog-and-pony show of a building that I work in (where Barney's is located) and he was very nice. I prefaced our meeting by introducing myself as Randy's archivist, since most "celebrities" are more comfortable if you start the conversation with something other than "you are this" and "you are that", and he was real nice to talk to. So, with visions of Julia Roberts in my head that I was trying to shake (the media can do so much damage on an impressionable boy like me) I tried to talk "Randy" with him, but I think I failed, and I probably didn't let him get a word in edge-wise. But you know? the next thing I knew, they were working together on *Toy Story*. Gosh.

RECORDS: Randy on 45.

45's! The lovely 7-inch disk that means so much to many pop-music lovers over 40 years of age!

If you were born before 198? you might have a special place in your heart for singles. There was a time when singles were King. John Lennon often raved about how powerful a single could be to carry two songs into your life.

Randy is not a "singles artist" really. Other than the infamous "Short People" single, his music was not best represented through singles. It is however interesting to note what songs were chosen as singles for his non-US sales. "Love Story" was released as a single in England but nowhere else. "Little Criminals" was released as the B-side of "Short People" in Europe. and "Rider in The Rain" as an A-side in Holland, with "Kathleen" on the back! And last issue I talked about the wonderful single, "Ragtime" that was released in France. For the

most part, WB did not put much work into picture sleeves (PS) for his singles, and most PS's match the LP's cover art, or a form of it.

This is a list of every Randy 45 I know of (If you know of others, please tell me):

Dot Records

1962 - 45-16411/10-62 (mono/promo) Golden Gridiron Boy/Country Boy

A&M Records

1967 - 847 - **La Campanilla** */**La Campanilla** (orchestral version)

*narrated by Ricardo Montalban

Reprise Records

1968 - 0692 (mono/promo) - Beehive State/I Think It's Going To Rain Today

0771 (mono/promo) - Last Night I Had A Dream*/I Think He's Hiding

* This is the non-LP electric version.

RS23278 (England/mono) **Love Story/I Think It's Going To Rain Today**

1970 - 0917 (mono) - **Hold On (Have You Seen My Baby)/Lover's Prayer**

0917 (mono/promo) - Hold On (Have You Seen...)/Lover's Prayer

0945 (promo) - Gone Dead Train (mono)/(stereo)(non-LP remix)

0945 - **Gone Dead Train** (non-LP remix)/**Harry Flowers**

14.168 (REP-3553) (Dutch) - **Yellow Man/[My] Old Kentucky Home** (PS)

1972 - REP 1102 - (mono/promo) Political Science/Sail Away

REP 1123 (promo) You Can Leave Your Hat On*(compatible stereo)/

Memo To My Son (compatible stereo process) *non-LP mix includes horns.

K 14155 (English) - **My Old Kentucky Home/Lonely At The Top** [live]

1974 - RPS 1324 (promo) - Naked Man (mono*)/Naked Man (stereo)

* label indicates mono, but is in fact stereo

RPS 1387 - **Louisiana 1927/Marie**

RPS1387 (promo) - Louisiana 1927 (stereo)/Louisiana 1927 (mono)

14379 [REP 3649] (France) - Birmingham/Naked Man (stereo/PS)

Warner Bros. Records

1977 - WBS 8492 - **Short People/Old Man On The Farm**

WBS 8492 - Short People/Short People (DJ)

K 17.034 (English) - Short People/ Old Man On The Farm (PS)

WB-17.034 (Dutch) - Short People/Old Man On The Farm (PS)

45-1666 (Spanish) - Short People/Old Man On The Farm (PS)

W 17.056 (English/Italian) - **Short People/Little Criminals** (PS)

1978 - WBS 8550 (promo) - Baltimore (stereo edit)/Baltimore (mono edit)

WBS 8550 (promo) - Baltimore (3:35 edit/mono)/Jolly Coppers On Parade(stereo)

WBS 8550 - **Baltimore/You Can't Fool The Fat Man**

WBS 8630 (promo) - Rider in the Rain (mono)/Sigmund Freud's Impersonation...(stereo)

WBS 8630 (promo) - Rider in the Rain (stereo)/Rider in the Rain (mono)

WB 17 069 (German) - **Short People/Rider In The Rain** (PS)

WB 17.103 (Dutch) - **Rider in the Rain/Kathleen (Catholicism Made Easier)** (PS)

GWB 0356 - **Short People/Baltimore** (re-issue single)

K17205 (England) - **Rider in The Rain/Little Criminals**

1979 - WBS49088 - **It's Money That I Love/Ghosts**

WBS 49088 (promo) - It's Money That I Love(stereo)/It's Money That I Love(mono)(both 3:03 edit)

- WB 17489 (Dutch) - It's Money That I Love/Ghosts (PS)
 WBS 49149 - **The Story of a Rock and Roll Band/Half A Man**
 WBS 49149 (promo) - The Story of a Rock and Roll Band (stereo)/ same (mono)
 1980 - WBS 49223 - **Political Science/Spies**
 WBS 49223 (promo) - Political Science (stereo)/Political Science (mono)
 WB 17.447 (Dutch w/ PS) & English) - **The Story of a Rock and Roll Band/Ghosts**
 1981 - WB 12 596 (French) - Clef Club/Train Ride/Ragtime (PS - "Bande Sonore Originale Du Film Ragtime")
 1983 - 7-29803 - **The Blues/Same Girl** (PS)
 7-29803 (promo) - The Blues (stereo edit)/The Blues (mono edit) (PS)
 7-29687 (promo DJS RE-1 - 3:00) - I Love L.A. (stereo)/I Love L.A. (mono)
 7-29687 (promo Stereo/Mono - 3:29) - I Love L.A./I Love L.A.
 7-29687 [promo DJS - (RE-2) - 3:00] - I Love L.A./I Love L.A.
 7-29687 - [S (RE-1) - 3:26] - **I Love L.A./ Song For The Dead**
 92.9673-7 (Dutch 3:29) - **I Love L.A./Mikey's** (PS)
 92.9409-7 (German) - **Political Science/Memo To My Son** (PS)
 1984 - 7-29241(promo) - The Natural (Synthesizer Version)/same
 7-29241 - **The Natural** (3:33)/**The Natural** (2:29) (**The Final Game**)

Reprise Records

- 1988 - 7-27709 (promo) - It's Money That Matters/It's Money That Matters (PS)
 7-27709 - **It's Money That Matters/Roll With The Punches** (PS)
 1989 - 7-27586 (promo) - Falling in Love/Falling in Love
 7-27586 - **Falling in Love/Bad News From Home**
 7-22798 - **I Love To See You Smile/End Title (ILTSYS)** (PS)

And here's some more from around the world:

Australian/New Zealand

The Blues/Same Girl

England

Gone Dead Train/Harry Flowers - RS 20945 (November 1970)

Sail Away/Political Science - K 14190 (July 1972)

Short People/Old Man On The Farm - K17034 (WB 6828) (October 1977) (PS)

Rider In The Rain/Little Criminals - K17205 (June 1978) (PS)

Story Of A Rock and Roll Band/Pretty Boy - K17447 (FWB 0122) (November 1979)

It's Money That I Love/Ghosts - K 17489 (November 1979)

I Love L.A./Song For The Dead W 9687 929 687-7

It's Money That Matters/Roll With The Punches - W 7709 927 709-7

France

Short People/Old Man On The Farm WEA 17034 (EA) [typo on sleeve: "Old Man of The Farm"]

I Love L.A./The Blues WEA 92 8783-7

Clef Club/Train Ride/Ragtime EP - see main discography

Germany/France

It's Money That Matters/Roll With The Punches 927 709-7/LC 0322 N [France WEA 171]

Falling In Love/Bad News From Home (PS) Reprise W 7578 927 578-7 (N) [WE 171]

Holland

Sail Away / Political Science - Holland (Reprise 14.190)

Short People/Old Man On The Farm - WB 17034 (WB-6828)

It's Money That I Love (edit)/Ghosts - WB 17.489

The Blues/Same Girl - WB 92. 9803-7

The Blues / Same Girl - Holland (92.3755-1)

I Love LA / Mikey's - Holland (WB 92.9673-7)

Italy

The Blues/Same Girl Wea Italiana S.P.A. 9 29803-7*

Japan

Short People/Old Man On The Farm P-253W*

The Blues/Same Girl P-1750*

Spain

Short People/Old Man On The Farm - (PS) Hispa Vox 45-1666 (SN)

It's Money That Matters/It's Money That Matters (PS) Reprise 1.003 SGAE (Ejemplar Gratuito Prohibita Su Venta) [promotional copy]

CD's - JURASSIC PARK -

In the last issue I neglected to mention the inclusion of Randy's "Big Hat, No Cattle" in Jurassic Park III. It's in the movie and on the soundtrack album. The other music on the CD, and in the film, is by the wonderful Don Davis, who's name you should all know by now since he has worked with Randy on many a film: *Air Force One*, *Bug's Life*, *Toy Story*, *Pleasantville*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Maverick*, *Meet The Parents*, and *Michael*. Thanks for puttin' a Randy-song in the picture Don! And dinosaurs are still cool, as far as I'm concerned.

Decca Records 440 014 325 2

BOOKS: A John Irving Short Story with Randy in it.

If I had to name my "heroes" they would be: Randy Newman, The Beatles, Johnnie Ray, John Irving, and Edvard Munch (the Norwegian painter). This pretty much covers "the arts" for me. And when I say "hero" I mean those individual's who's work really turned my crank at some point in my life. There are certainly others (like John Steinbeck, Richard Brautigan, Emile Zola, Hoagy Carmichael, Pinky Lee...) but these guys really dug deep into me with their talented hooks.

Anyway, last year I finally got a hold of a book of short stories that had somehow escaped my attention for many years, from Rolling Stone Press: Wonders: Writings and Drawings for the Child in Us All, from 1980, that features a short story by Irving called, "The Old Friends".

In this autobiographical-like story, one of the children plays "Short People" over and over again to the irritation of the narrator ("Short People" did irritate a lot of people - I know that, but I hate to think this is Irving's only exposure to Randy's music). In 2000 I had the opportunity to ask John Irving what kind of music he listens to. This was part of his answer: "I don't listen to music very much, unless it's something my kids put on and then I am basically appalled. I like Bob Dylan, I like Bach. in the car, I play country-western music, which is sort of like reading the newspapers. I do pay attention to the musical scores of certain movies that I like. I think Rachael Portman's original score for THE CIDER HOUSE RULES is brilliant..."

Honest answer. Happy to hear he's a Dylan fan, as I am too. I should have asked him why he picked on "Short People" in his short story, but I can imagine the answer.

If he likes Bob, he just might like Randy's music even more. I would imagine he might like Randy's film work too. Why do I care?...

I had always wondered if Randy was a John Irving fan. Once I asked Randy if he had read, *The World According To Garp*, Irving's fourth novel, and my favorite. He said he had but didn't care for it too much. He might have said he thought it was too violent, but I don't recall if that is just what he said, but I hear that a lot. If you are interested in more information about John Irving, I have contributed some things to:

<http://www.geocities.com/irvingophile/>

Don't you love how I push my favorite shit on you?

GUIDE TO COLLECTING RANDY NEWMAN:

In the first issue of PANTS, I mentioned, "It's Money That Matters - A Guide to Collecting Randy Newman". If you are interested in a copy of it, I will make you one for \$10 (US) or \$20 (outside the US). If you want a color/colour copy it will have to be about \$40/\$50, 'cause the color copies don't come cheap. A black & white copy should suffice, if you want the low-down on all "Randy things". Keep in mind that this is a copy of a copy and the quality will suffer a little. The "guide" plus the first issue of PANTS will be good to keep you "in the know" so you can impress people at cocktail parties where Randy Newman merchandising is discussed. Otherwise, send me a note and I will send you an update electronically if you wish. I know darn well that I am speaking to a small sector of RN "collectors", so I think I can handle the avalanche of requests.

THEATRE - Sam Shepard's *Seduced* -

"Seduced" was first presented at the American Place Theatre in New York, in 1981. It was directed by Jack Gelber, and the cast included: Rip Torn as Henry Hackamore, Ed Setrakian as Raul, Pamela Reed as Luna, and Carla Borelli as Miami. Randy gave permission for the use of "Sail Away" and "You Can Leave Your Hat On", for the performances.

Johan Callens in Belgium sent this in to me:

Shepard actually opens Act One of *Seduced* with "Sail Away", which I take in the most general sense to be marker of the American Dream's corruption. The play indeed contains carry-overs from the Faust story (the blood-signed contract, the overreaching) as a result of Shepard's earlier (never published) adaptation of the play. Act Two opens with "You Can Leave Your Hat On" while two women characters, Luna and Miami, enact the lyrics for Henry (the Howard Hughes character). At the end of the strip-tease, while they dress, he opens the dialogue with the words: "Very impressive. Very interesting little rendition. Choice of music's a little off the wall but aside from that I'd say you two make a nifty combination." (97, in the 1976 Urizen Books edition). The dig at Newman (whose music Shepard presumably loves) is rather typical of a recurring type in Shepard's drama: the deadpan cantankerous old man, who is humorous without wanting to. The point of the song would seem to be Hughes's dwelling in a male fantasy world, though feminist Shepard critics tend to dislike such scenes, in-character or not, thematically relevant or not.

Thanks Johan! He knows his stuff, this guy. I read the play, and liked it, but I don't know "theatre" really, except to say that the use and placement of *music* in theatre does interest me. Very much so. Most of the reviews of this play I have read do not mention the use the Randy's songs. Sometimes I wish I could carry a hammer.

Speaking of Belgium... I recently hooked-up with a fellow in Belgium who is going to help me with my Randy-bibliography. The bibliography has always suffered from under-nourishment, so he's gonna help me do it right. You can see parts of it at randynewman.com as it stands now. I hope to add all sorts of European entries, and beef-up the English-language entries as well. Thanks Jan!

A THEATRICAL NOTE from the L.A. Times of August 5, 2001:

MUCH ADO ABOUT 'MUCH': A recent fiscal wrap-up of the 2000-01 season at South Coast Repertory revealed that last spring's "Much Ado About Nothing" was the second best-selling production in the company's history, trailing only "The Education of Randy Newman" from 2000. The success of "Much Ado" is even greater considering that "Randy Newman" tickets were priced slightly higher, and "Randy Newman" had more full-price performances.

COVER VERSIONS:

Mike Weatherford tells of the *Toy Story 2* sessions for Robert Goulet's cover of "You've Got A Friend In Me" in the Las Vegas Review-Journal of July 20, 2001. Fun and revealing:

Randy Newman invited Goulet to perform 'You've Got a Friend in Me' on the 'Toy Story 2' soundtrack (stemming from a gag in the movie involving the toy Wheezy).

Goulet pointed out to the songwriter-composer, 'You sent me the music for this song and then a CD of you doing it in the film, and it wasn't the same.'

'He said, 'Aw, I was just a little sloppy.'

'Do you mind if I get a little sloppy?'

'No, go ahead.' "

But when Goulet started recording the song with a 60-piece studio orchestra, Newman yelled, 'Cut' and started telling Goulet how to enunciate the song.

'You told me I could get sloppy,' Goulet said.

'I've changed my mind,' Newman responded.

- This is not a cover version but a plug, for Little Criminal (meaning he is a BIG RN fan) and very talented songwriter/good-guy Dan Bryk has released a song on his "Lover's Leap" CD (Scratchie Records) called, "Fingers" about his piano teacher who molested him as a child. I like this fellow's music quite a bit, but have not heard from him in some time. Dan, I salute you!

"I gave up playing piano at age six," recalls Bryk. "Dr. Mlotek, the teacher, wrung his hands and said 'Mrs. Bryk, your son ees not a piano player.'" Eventually, being smitten by Depeche Mode gave Dan an outlet for teenage anxiety in the form of MIDI sequencing. Fixated on the music biz, rock writing, Randy Newman and Top 40 radio, the quest to meld these passions became Bryk's ambition. And while cautiously evading the few "wannabe Deadhead jam bands and solipsistic folkies" in college, Dan perfected his penchant for self-deprecation. <http://www.bryk.com/html/bio.html>

- The amazing Mr. Fred Lieberman sent this to me, so here it is verbatim (love that word!):

Michael at All Music Services (michael@allmusicservices.com) has

Megan Mullally, THE SWEETHEART BREAK-IN--We have autographed copies

(\$21.99) of the debut CD by the brilliant star of WILL & GRACE

(Karen) and her band. Mullally brings her extensive experience in

musicals (HOW TO SUCCEED..., GREASE) to an impressively eclectic program:

Sweetheart (Sigmund Romberg / Rida Johnson Young) (instrumental)
Ten Cents a Dance (Lorenz Hart / Richard Rodgers)
Marie (Randy Newman)
How Insensitive (Antonio Carlos Jobim / Vincius De Moraes)
It Never Was You (Maxwell Anderson / Kurt Weill)
King of the Road (Roger Miller) (instrumental)
Far From Me (John Prine)
In The Gloaming (Thomas Moore / Annie Fortescue Harrison / Meta Orred)
Ruby's Arms (Tom Waits)
I Remember (Stephen Sondheim)
Are You Lonesome Tonight? (Roy Turk / Lou Handman)
Scarlet Ribbons (Jack Segal / Evelyn Danzig)
Johanna (Stephen Sondheim)
Surabaya Johnny (Brecht / Weill)
Guilty (Randy Newman)
Johnsburg, Illinois (Tom Waits)

Since Michael is one of the most comprehensive dealers and expert in vocal music (pop, cabaret, show), I'd expect that he would be both knowledgeable about Randy Newman covers and a good source for the occasional collector's item.

Thanks Fred!

- Lea DeLaria has recorded "Life Has Been Good To Me":

"When she sings 'Life Has Been Good to Me,' she has such an upbeat twinkle, you suspect she means every word. - Gary S. Dalkin" www.amazon.com

"...For the other nine tunes, DeLaria and Co. turned to Sondheim again for "Losing My Mind," to Cy Coleman and Carolyn Leigh for "I've Got Your Number," to Coleman with David Zippel for "With Every Breath I Take," to Fred Ebb and John Kander for "All That Jazz," to Michael John LaChiusa for "Welcome to My Party" and "The Lowdown Down" (from *The Wild Party*), and to and non-Broadway types Randy Newman ("Life Has Been Good to Me") and Tom Waits and Greg Cohen ("Straight to the Top")."

<http://nbc5.theatermania.com/news/feature/index.cfm?story=1434&cid=1>

- Baby Jane Dexter, a cabaret singer in LA, has been featuring Randy's, "Guilty" in her act. Don Heckman reports, Friday, January 26, 2001:

Baby Jane Dexter's Grown-Up Attitude, Voice Fill the Room Cabaret Review

By DON HECKMAN, Special to The Times

"...And in a program that embraced decades of popular song--from "It's a Sin to Tell a Lie" and "There Is Nothing Like a Dame" (an unusual choice, to say the least) to Randy Newman's "Guilty" and a pair of Abbey Lincoln songs--she demonstrated the versatility to cover all the stylistic bases."

For the whole tamale see:

http://www.calendarlive.com/top/1,1419,L-LATimes-Print-X!ArticleDetail-18642,00.html?search_area=Articles&channel=Search

- "Modern" Country-music man Ty Herndon has been playing, "You Can Leave Your Hat On". This was from January, but what the hey. It's on his new CD, "Steam".

<http://www.tyherndon.com/>

"Sometimes when you are on the road and you hear something 50 million times from the fans, you have to listen and I didn't listen the last couple of albums. There's a song called

"You Can Leave Your Hat" written by the **ever popular** Mr. Randy Newman that I really, really insisted on never cutting because I didn't want to put a song on the album that the critics would tear me apart for cutting. So, I thought about it...and I know the record label had been getting all kinds of mail and calls for Ty Herndon to cut this song because it is such a big part of our show. So, I gave in and we gave it its own character and it has a life of its own. It's different from the two versions by Tom Jones and Joe Cocker - which are great versions - but I didn't want to be compared to those guys. So, I put on the back of the CD "By The Fans Request" so that everybody would know that it was simply for them."

<http://www.sonymusic.com/labels/nashville/TyHerndon/Steam/audio.html>

I like the "ever popular" part. But I'll tell ya - I don't care if I ever hear another cover of this song.

- From The Observer, July 22, 2001:

VARIOUS Darker Than Blue (Blood and Fire BAF CD036)

The debt owed by reggae to black America is profound, but as this collection of cover versions from the 1970s makes clear, Jamaican singers maintained the spirit of soul music with an integrity that was missing once disco got a grip Stateside. It was, for example, Jamaican artists who first recognized Curtis Mayfield's 'Darker Than Blue' itself as a classic - Lloyd Charmers's version here is one of several - while redoubtable like Delroy Wilson and John Holt made great covers of The Temptations, Isley Brothers and more. An anomaly provides the best moment in the shape of the Tamblins' version of 'Baltimore' - a Randy Newman song, come via Nina Simone, and turned into a cry of urban despair.

- From the Times Union, Albany, New York, August 6, 2001:

"Canadian singer-pianist Chantal Kreviazuk opened the show with a pleasant solo set that showcased her own Carole King-meets-Tori Amos compositions. She also dipped into the songbags of Randy Newman and John Denver". She opened for Joan Osborne and probably sang, "Feels Like Home".

- I would also like to mention that in 1968 Johnnie Ray *may have* recorded a cover of Randy's, "I Think It's Going To Rain Today". A lot of people did, after hearing Judy Collins do it, but I have this **thing** about Johnnie Ray. Go ahead, ask me.

A SONG:

"William Brown" is my favorite Randy Newman song. This may come as no surprise to many of you since I recorded it for the "Mama Told Me Not To Sing" CD that we (The Little Criminals at randynewman.com... I'm AWOL) did with/for Randy a while ago. I did so with the help of my best bud Scott McCaughey of REM/Young Fresh Fellows/Minus 5 fame. He made it the wonderful little recording that it is. Thanks Scott! And Randy liked it! Anywho...

It's on his Born Again album, the Randy-album people like to dislike (Joan).

Through the 30+ years I have had the pleasure to plough through as much Randy as I have, I always return to the soft-house quality of this song. It is a painting, short story, and ballad all rolled in to one.

William Brown

William Brown

A tobacco man
Left North Carolina
When he sold his land
He took a train
To Omaha
Stayed there with some friends he had

He didn't mind the dust
And he didn't mind the wind
And he didn't mind the cold
And he didn't miss home

And he liked the people
And he liked the town
So he built himself a house
Beside the river
And he sent for his children
And he sent for his cars
And he bought a little business
That would run itself

He didn't mind the dust
And he didn't mind the wind
And he didn't mind the cold
And he didn't miss home

CARE TO LIVE LIFE DANGEROUSLY?

Available NOW - "Songs I Wrote When I Was Writing Songs" by Gary Norris. 20 songs penned by yours truly. Written and recorded between 1974 and 1980. Songs heavily influenced by Randy Newman (no surprise there) Todd Rundgren, John Lennon, Tom Waits, and even though the CD liner notes do not mention him by name, David Forman. These are the songs that I had numerous opportunities to play for Randy, in person, but never got the nerve. Features the hit (in Denmark anyway) "I Want To Die In A Woman's Prison" that was recorded by Seattle's Young Fresh Fellows, The Squirrels, and Denmark's Groovy Greasebags. (I sent a tape of this song to Randy once and he taped over it! - that's how good it is!) Just send me \$5, and it's yours. Enough of that. I promised myself that I would not put anything in this newsletter that is/was not directly related to Randy... but...

I did manage to get Johnnie Ray's name into this issue 3 times. There will be no Johnnie Ray in the next issue.

That's it for this "issue". Until October, may your radishes be red on the outside and white in the inside. Love, Gary