

"SHINY \$300 SUITS  
AND SCUFFED WINGTIPS."

by Joan Levine

PART I

Jim Pagni was once described to me as "some old guy who puts on all the rock concerts, cheats the people and grim all the way to the bank." In my mind, I pictured him as a balding, pudgy individual who wore shiny \$300 suits and scuffed wingtips. It was said that you could always tell a Pagni concert by the large clusters of people harking outside the Sports Arena grumbling and shaking their fists as they waited in line.

# ROCK IN \$AN DIEGO



ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM DOMKE

Sometime later, a friend gave me some tickets to see Dave Mason, and during intermission I found myself backstage, standing elbow to elbow with a man who was introduced to me as Jim Pagni. He was a young man, sharply attired in color-coordinated body shirt, flared double-knit pants and boots. He had mid stockbroker-length hair and he didn't come in all ego and pseudo-hip. Okay, so who says ya gotta be a freak to be a rock concert promoter? Even Bill Graham has a large share of critics. Jim Pagni looked hip in the late 1950's sense, more hip than hip (which is not a putdown, that's how he is), sort of a contemporary homegrown Dick Clark who knows the concert business.

Jim Pagni began promoting concerts ten years ago when he was 18, just out of Hoover High School. Seems his college fraternity needed some beer money for a party, so he came up with an idea for a dance. He applied to the city for a license, did many hours of dirty work, and wound up getting \$300 for sixty guys. He figured if it worked for them, he could enlarge his idea and put on dances for bigger crowds, but he was green and lost a lot of money. "cause I was bringing the wrong kind of music into places. I learned the hard way." So he summoned himself and began putting on dances at the old War Memorial Building in Balboa Park, with such memorable local groups like the Normals and Arlene and the Prontus, real

make-out music; that later evolved in 1963-65 to rock 'n' roll acts like the Coasters, Drifters, Ike and Tina Turner, and Sonny and Cher.

Then the scene changed from dances to concerts. "Kids seemed to want to listen to the music instead of to dance to it," Pagni explains. In 1965, the Convocation was built and it provided an ideal place to stage concerts. The folk scene was in full Moon and Pagni's first big concert there was The Christy Minstrels, and later on Glenn Yarbrough and Peter, Paul and Mary. In 1967, the Arena opened and 8,000 people came to see James Brown. The soul groups dominated for a while (continued on page 9)

## Vietnamese, Living Here

by Kevin Malloy

I got these orders to Vietnam, you see. They said to report to "Coronado, San Diego" for training. I was afraid, and full of doubts (am I really going to kill innocent peasants?) But I was curious, too. It was 1968, and the tall, clear-eyed Navy lieutenants we had as instructors in Coronado still believed in the war. The Tet offensive, only a few months old, was a U.S. victory, they said. I was impressed, but still curious.

For our Vietnamese language classes we had Vietnamese girls. "How do you feel about the war?" I asked one of them in the hallway after class. Miss Quoc, a delicate young instructor who used to say "I'm right!" when she meant

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"It's it!" or "downy it?" Let the questions begin with a nervous, conspiratorial laughter. Miss Quoc, our vicious instructor, taught us in the afternoon, stared emotionlessly at the floor. "I don't believe in the Viet Cong or the Americans." I was curious and enchanted by these Vietnamese. I used to wait in the parking lot after class and watch them walk to their cars. There were about ten or fifteen of them. The numerous or tasseled silk skirts of their ao dai fluttered like butterfly wings in the wind and exposed their black pajama pants. Their black hair, dark glasses, and white smiles evoked pictures of Madame Nhu arriving at L.A. International from Saigon. At our last meal together before I caught the plane for Travis, I warned my parents not to be surprised if I came home from Vietnam married...

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I went back to the language school to see if I could find any of the teachers I knew. Miss Quoc had gone to France. "For health reasons," I was told. Miss Yen was there but didn't remember me and didn't really seem to want to chat. Mr. Hoan, the director of the Vietnamese staff, and I talked about my experiences in Vietnam. (I learned later that Mr. Hoan had been vice-president of South Vietnam in 1964 under Khanh, two coups after Diem's overthrow.) I asked about the Vietnamese restaurant that used to stand on Orange Avenue in Coronado. "That is closed down now," he said wistfully.

\*\*\*

A Navy lieutenant I met in Danang told me to look up this wife of a Coronado attorney when I got back "to the world." They owned a lot of horses in Coronado and she'd find a place for me. Mrs. Campbell, the lady, also ran a dress shop and commanded her maid in Spanish. With the same authority in her voice, she told me to get into her white T-shirt. As she drove me around to look at houses, she kept dragging me on the knee and saying how she loved young Navy officers. Why, her first husband had been an Annapolis man and a regular. Far into the conversation I casually asked if those Vietnamese girls still lived in Coronado.

"Animals," she snapped. "That's what they are." And then she began telling me how the Vietnamese girls used their jobs to chase young naval officers...

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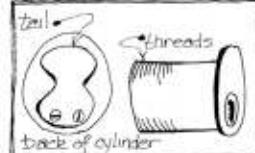
It's October 1972. The woman officer in charge of this Naval Amphibious School language school warns me that any official information about the language school would have to be approved by the Public Affairs Officer. So I settle for an interview with the new Vietnamese staff director. Walking down the dimly lit hallway to his office I notice that there are only four Vietnamese faces left on the staff bulletin board rugue's gallery:

Mr. Hiet, the director, greets me warmly and we sit down with a Mrs. Hung. I mention the week-old story in the L.A. Times about Mr. Hoan, his predecessor. The story said Mr. Hoan was running a Vietnamese restaurant in Mountain View.

"Oh yes, I too have a Vietnamese restaurant, in Monterey. My sister runs it. There are about four in the San Francisco area."

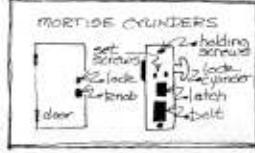
MR. FIXIT (continued from pg. 3)

to get the cylinder out. This type of cylinder then must be unscrewed itself, since it is actually screwed into threads inside the door. Once it has been removed, take it with you to the hardware store to be sure you are getting a cylinder with approximately similar tail.



Installing the mortise cylinder can be more difficult since it must align properly after having been screwed into its threads. It may be necessary to try varying numbers of turns and varying numbers of cylinder rings. Once it is in place, it is held by the set and holding screws.

A new mortise cylinder begins at about \$3.50. The best buys are in the \$4 to \$7 range, and are made of solid brass or bronze. Just as there are high-priced rim cylinders, there are high-priced unpredictable mortise cylinders as well.



If you have difficulties, most hardware stores will provide free advice. No problems should be encountered if you proceed carefully, however, noting exactly how the lock or faucet was originally as you took it apart.

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# FOOD

BY  
KATHLEEN  
WOODWARD

THE GREENERY

The building on the southwest corner of Mission Boulevard and Gorset Avenue in Pacific Beach has seen a lot of changes. First there was Oscar's and then the short-lived dance joint The Bulwacker. This is where I watched the undergo another transformation, speculating for a while that The Greenery was going to be a nursery or a place which sold Christmas trees. It is, I am happy to say, neither of these, but instead a very pleasant restaurant in the new stained-glass-and-striped wood style that is surfacing along the coast.

"I THOUGHT  
OF THE FAMOUS  
EATING SCENE  
FROM TOM JONES..."

While I was eating dinner there last weekend, I thought of the famous eating scene in Tom Jones where Tom and Jenny Waters eat a magnificent meal in a pretense to or part of their making love. A little rough! The Greenery certainly doesn't have the robust exuberance of the old English inn at Upstate, it does share one important characteristic with it: it's a good place for lovers. The ceilings are low and the lighting subdued. Of the fifteen tables, fourteen are large, high-backed semi-circular booths of wood which contrast nicely with the masonry work on the walls. Chicago and Crosby, Stills, and Nash play in the background. This could all be too phonny stuff, but it succeeds in being tasteful, if not highly original.

The Greenery is not, thankfully, another one of the steak and lobster restaurants which another San Diego. The hand-printed menu is interesting, extensive, even courageous.

I recommend The Greenery very warmly. There is a balance, thoughtful attention to detail here. The wine list, for example, is well-selected and amazingly reasonable. I have only one final suggestion. For dessert there is a lovely cheese platter listed on the menu which is, I understand, still at the experimental stage. Why not depart further from standard American practice and add a basket of fresh fruit? Not only would it be nice to be able to choose a bunch of grapes or a ripe pear for dessert, but it would have the further virtue of being in keeping with the spirit and name of the restaurant as well.

# KSDO 1130

THE INDIVIDUALISTS



From the top, clockwise:  
BILL GORDON: Reporter,  
writer, host. Plays decent  
guitar. His talk show is  
from 8-11PM.

HERB HUMPHRIES: Texas Newsman. He's bossed a small army of reporters from his basement. And loves his newspaper.

SAM STEVEN: Author, young electronic journalist. Newsmen.

Ashram Newsweek author.

BILL BALANCE: Twice-broadcast radio supervisor, researcher. Unlikely location of major/mean animal migration. 10AM-2PM.

ROY EWELL (and friend). Gentle controversialist. Filmmaker. Oldbustman. Talk show pioneer. 9-TAM, 2-3:30PM.

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READER'S  
GUIDE TO  
SAN DIEGO'S  
MOVIES

# ★FILM★

DUNCAN  
SHEPARD

**Alca's Restaurant**—Like other young movie serials, of 1968 (EAST ALDEN, LAST SUMMER), Arthur Hiller's light reworking of Alan Alda's 1966 TV series is a lighthearted, laddish and in-class chick-flick. Alda is a hapless, driftless hero, a decent guy who's lost his way. His two female co-stars (Dawn Wells and Linda Evans) are quite attractive, while the male establishment (comedy star Tim Considine, among others) is a bunch of *"real-life"* home types. The ending is somewhat heavy and the comedy is more than a little forced, but it's probably tolerable. (Cathleen Cawood Drive-In, El Cajon)

**Feeble Roots**—Dana Gruber's self-titled effort about a woman who can't get out from under her own feet is a bit like an ant's antarctic adventure. It's a tale of Anthony, lacking even Matt's impartiality, since Gruber is allowed to say she loves her husband. (Madeline, which is usually reasonable.) (Cathleen Cawood, 10:15 a.m.)

**Bluebeard**—It's all Richard Burton in this super-camp, modern-area take-off of the Shakespearean story: Alida Valli is the title character, who puts out the likes of such unromantic fatalities as KATE AND WILHELM. Vivien Leigh, Karen Valentine, and a host of other stars add to the atmosphere of one that gets away. (Elwood Drive-In, 8 p.m.)

**Dr. Zhivago**—David Lean's vision of Pasternak's novel is designed for romantics who are prone to stage sighs and tears. (Elwood Drive-In, 8 p.m.)

**Funny Girl**—This is a Bette Midler, all that was, Personality.

**Young Girls Always Want**—KAREN WEST, Sex Star, was pleased at the currently slick sexiness of the movie, but she doesn't seem to be making out the likes of such unromantic fatalities as KATE AND WILHELM. Vivien Leigh, Karen Valentine, and a host of other stars add to the atmosphere of one that gets away. (Elwood Drive-In, 8 p.m.)

**Better Days Are Free**—Slick, passe version of the currently slick sexiness of the movie, but she doesn't seem to be making out the likes of such unromantic fatalities as KATE AND WILHELM. Vivien Leigh, Karen Valentine, and a host of other stars add to the atmosphere of one that gets away. (Elwood Drive-In, 8 p.m.)

**Catwalk**—Offbeat, animal romance is dependent on the kinetic energy.

**The Candidate**—One of the few political comedies without any elements of satire or refreshment, because it's so darned serious. (Elwood Drive-In, 8 p.m.)

**Family Plot**—The latest hot news item in the world of British literature, seen in the *Times*, Paul Theroux's *Novelist's Apprentice*, is a good book, though not as well written as the numbers and the story never quite comes off. And the film has been equally evaded. Total! It is excellent in the role of Tony, the old man. Recommended. (Elwood Drive-In, 8 p.m.)

**A Fistful of Dynamite**—(Shark, Yes, Sucker!)—Bergman's most

skillful and, as mentioned, most

interesting performance.

**Father of the Bride**—The 20th anniversary musical version of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, in the *Times*, Peter Ustinov's *Novelist's Apprentice*, is a good book, though not as well written as the numbers and the story never quite comes off. And the film has been equally evaded. Total! It is excellent in the role of Tony, the old man. Recommended. (Elwood Drive-In, 8 p.m.)

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**The Graduate**—One of the few political comedies without any elements of satire or refreshment, because it's so darned serious. (Elwood Drive-In, 8 p.m.)

**Goodbye Darkness**—Very interesting, Robert Redford's the various characters who gradually become aware of their education and the world outside. But most audience members will just sit back and let the movie do its thing.

**Hawk and Dove**—(Shark, Yes, Sucker!)—Bergman's most

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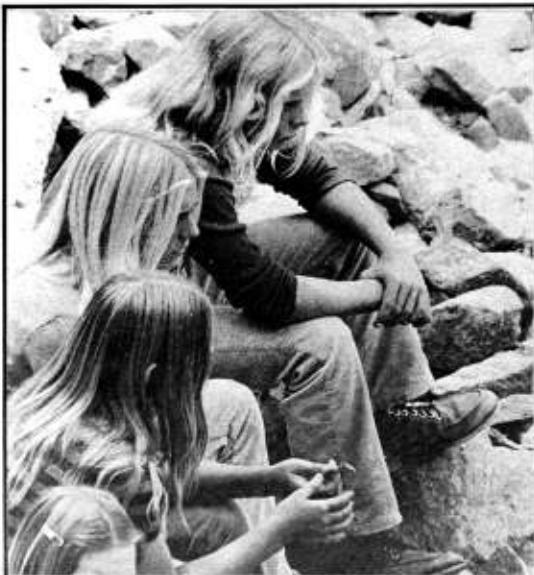
## IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER



Wax'in down our surfboards  
Can't wait 'til June  
We'll be gone for the summer  
On a safari to stay  
Everybody's gone surfin'  
Surfin' U-S-A.

Brian Wilson: Surfing U.S.A., Capitol Records, 1963

1972 WORLD SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
OCEAN BEACH



# SOME GOOD CLAPTON AND SOME BAD CLAPTON

BY KARL KEATING

The title puts it succinctly: this two-record album is a musical history of Eric Clapton, though like any history it is somewhat subjective; the subject is open to interpretation. Some will argue that the self-titled "songs and tunes" are unrepresentative. Others will say that the accompanying ultra-text details Clapton's true character and significance. Both camps will be correct.

An anthology of any artist's works will necessarily be selective, and because of the very nature of anthologies a hierarchy will be created; this is better than that. These are more like him than those. But in any good, reasonably representative grouping of an artist's major works (and this is surely a representative grouping) most of the significant pieces will appear. Not finding "Layla" in this abridged would be like not finding "Bluesology in Blue" in the collected works of Gershwin.

## HISTORY OF ERIC CLAPTON



Two record sides are devoted to works produced in collaboration with Blind Faith, Delaney & Bonnie & Friends, and Derek and the Dominos. These works, when juxtaposed with those recorded with the Yardbirds or Cream, show a remarkably wide range of style. The long album text attributes this range to Clapton's need to explore varying musical modes. His "chameleonic changes in style and form" are visible each time he changes groups; "radical changes in playing and technique have been accompanied by altered physical appearance, different friends/musicians and lifestyles, and often profound changes in general outlook."

Profound? I doubt it. Clapton is less a Hillary scaling mountain after mountain, because "they are there"; he is less than a maniac who does not really know what he is doing. Occasionally he finds himself at the winning end of a good piece of music. More often than not he is the financial winner and artistic loser. His "chameleonic changes," I predict, will continue: he will sample all the possible shades and hues, and one day he will discover that he has dropped out of the rainbow altogether.

Among the oldest of the works is "I Ain't Got You," recorded with the Yardbirds on the album of the same name. (There are no extant recordings of the efforts of the Ringers, the first group with which Clapton performed.) With this is the powerful instrumental "Tribute to Elton" (Elton John, with whom "soared, brutal" life, we are told in the jacket art). Clapton has had a "strong identification."

After his stint with the Yardbirds, Clapton moved over to John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, whose success was approximately proportional to their worth. It was here, though, that Clapton polished his rock-blues skills.

Not long after, Clapton found Cream, or it found him. Regardless, a successful partnership was formed, and in this history are found four selections from the three Cream albums, "Sister of You Love," "Crossroads," "Spoonful," and "Bad." In "Crossroads" Clapton is the lead vocalist, and it is here that he so ably illustrates that his forte is guitar playing; his voice is roughly comparable, though maybe a bit more monotone, than that of Howard Cosell. But, to be fair, it must be admitted that there are moments when Clapton does an acoustic like a bovine male Janis Joplin; in "Bad," from Cream's Goodbye album, he at times illustrates a considerable range and endurance.

## TOP 10 RECORDS

### NATIONAL (From BILLBOARD)

#### SINGLES

- Mac Davis: Baby Don't Get Hooked on Me
- Michael Jackson: Ben
- O'Day's: Back Stabbers
- Maciag: Everybody Plays the Fool
- Rosemary: Go All the Way
- Bill Withers: Use Me
- Ethiop Precley: Banney Love
- Three Dog Night: Black & White
- Chuck Berry: My Ding-A-Ling
- Hot Butter: Response

#### ALBUMS AND TAPES

- Chicago: Chicago V
- Leon Russell: Doves
- Van Morrison: Never a Dull Moment
- Clothes & Shoes: Big Books
- Ethiop Precley: Honey Classics
- Three Dog Night: Seven Senses
- Neil Diamond: Moonlight
- Eric Mayfield: Satisfaction
- Gilbert O'Sullivan: Hospital
- Chuck Berry: London Sessions

#### SAN DIEGO

(Based on information from the WHEREHOUSE)

#### SINGLES

- Luther Ingram: I Don't Want to Be Right
- Al Green: Do You Want to Be With Me
- Al Green: I'm Still in Love With You
- Three Dog Night: Black & White
- America: Ventura Highway
- The Who: Join Together
- Uva Collier: Think About It
- Johnnie Taylor: Stop Doggin' Me
- Dionetics: Return to the Food
- Gary Glitter: Rock & Roll Part II

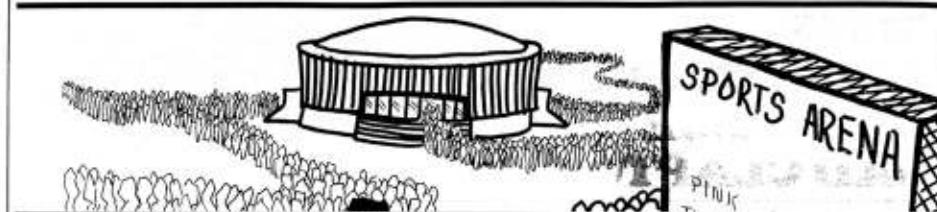
#### ALBUMS

- Jefferson Airplane: Living Is the Part
- Peter Townsend: Who Came First
- Chicago: Chicago 5
- Mark Almond: Mark Almond
- Bob Seger: My Time
- You: Close to the Edge
- Ethiop Precley: Ten Years After
- Grateful Dead: Hakuna Matata
- Eric Mayfield: People
- Car Stevens: Catch A Hold in C

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#### ROCK IN SAN DIEGO

PART I (continued from page 1)

by Joan Levine

and then the acid rock sounds from San Francisco emerged and Pagni was responsible for importing Jethro and Big Brother, Jefferson Airplane, Quicksilver and Vanilla Fudge, complete with light shows.

#### "EVEN THEIR HAIRSPRAY WAS CONFISCATED"

Evidently, this is where resentment started building up towards Pagni and he became the proverbial whipping-boy between the powers-that-be at the Concours and the young concert-goers, who seemed being searched and undergoing harassment at his concerts and dances. They began to refer to the guards as "Pagni's goons," maybe forgetting that nobody could put on a concert or dance without a "security force," and if the promoter didn't like it, he could set up his amps elsewhere. Still, a lot of people I encountered in my interviews bitterly recall going to Pagni's dances at USD, and having their pillows, combs, and in those days of bouffant hair-dos, even their hairspay confiscated.

The gap between the money that people think Jim Pagni takes is and the amount that he claims he earns is tremendous. A couple of months ago a local branch of the Rock Liberation Front made造出 charges against Pagni, including some concerning a Led Zeppelin concert. Pagni was charged with taking a huge profit from the promotion of the Zeppelin concert. In fact, the group was brought here by a Seattle firm called Concerts West. Pagni was hired by them as a press agent on a 15 per cent basis, a chime which made him a commission of \$250. After Zeppelin, leaflets were distributed, accusing him of monopoly, and showing an illustration of a shabby old guy counting his wad of bills. The RLF said that "Pagni expressed a willingness to meet with them," but the meeting never took place.

#### "I'D PROBABLY GET A JAR OF MUSTARD AND A DOG."

Pagni says, "they have not returned any of my calls . . . but what good would it do me to see them? The damage has been done; it would just make me look worse. Anyway, if I did say, I'd probably only be awarded a jar of mustard and a dog." For his part, Mr. Pagni says that "Groups like the Moody Blues and Led Zeppelin who ask \$20,000 a show are responsible for the high ticket prices. Many times it is right at the contract what the ticket prices should be." Grand Funk walked out with \$32,000 the last time they were here." According to Pagni's assistant, out of the forty or so concerts he had presented in the last nine months, he's had only a dozen unsuccessful ones, the most recent being Rod Stewart, Leon Russell, Alice Cooper, and John Mayall. Some of the many that didn't fare so well were Cheech and Chong, Van Morrison, Ravi Shankar and Steve Stills.

#### "FUTURE OF OTHER SAN DIEGO ROCK PROMOTERS."

#### PART II

The future of other San Diego rock promoters is more precarious. Mark Berman and Jeff Carson run Good Times Productions. They have recently taken over the club Earth, where they have held dances for the past few months along with some recent concerts featuring Tim Weisberg, Hedge and Donna and the Youngbloods. Recently they had Bix Scaggi and band for two successful sell-out shows along with Fairfield and the Don McLeod Mine and Music Machine. Bix played for almost two hours. For \$3.50, it was a lot of music. Unfortunately the rent-a-cups were a bit tight and the refreshments were limited to soft drinks and candy bars, but it was one of the best concerts I've seen in the past few months. The management let the artist really enjoy himself and go beyond the normal 45 minute set. When Good Times Productions featured the "complete" Youngbloods earlier this year at the Scottish Rite Temple off Highway 80, the concert lasted some four hours, and it was a low ticket price show.

#### "THEY SAID PEOPLE COULDN'T BRING PILLOWS."

I spoke to Terry Phillips of Concert Express, who promoted the Three Dog Night and Procol Harum a few months back. Phillips is not new to the concert scene in San Diego and along with his work with Concert Express, runs Wallbangers. He said that he's "in motion" out of larger promotion and attempting to concentrate on booking top bands into Wallbangers." The subject of other promoters came up and Terry commented that he felt "Jim Pagni has received a lot of bad rap, especially in the early part of concert promotion when he was one of the first people around, and the city would have him ultimatum which he had to take, and in turn take the heat of them. When they said people couldn't bring pillows, it was the Fire Department regulation, not Pagni's." Some people have said because of Pagni's misfire, it doesn't help him have support with people, but Terry feels "that everyone has a different way of doing things, and I don't exactly agree with him."

#### "IDIOT BOY ON THE NEWLYWED GAME."

Bob Embanks, former KHLA disc jockey and resident troublemaker/kid boy on the Newlywed Game began Concert Associates several years ago with Jim Rissner and Steve Wolf, and they were responsible for presenting the first Beatles tour in the United States. Since Los Angeles is an important city for a group to play, the promoter often buys four-block dates, and since Concert Associates was well-respected, they consequently got first crack at the top groups and the major cities. Bob Embanks got more involved in his television ventures and Rissner and Wolf took over, with the Filways organization becoming the new owner. Embanks went on to form Concert Express, which is branching out quite a bit, but Concert Associates still reigns as the leader in concert promotion on the West Coast.

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