

THE EARDRUM

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EARS CREDO

The golden leaves are fallin', heavy frost glues itself to your car windshield in the morning, and the Bears are finally coming out of a three-year hibernation. So why don't you get out of bed and and come to the next EARS meeting. Sponsored by NARAS, Chicago engineers, studio owners, students, and producers meet monthly to talk shop and discuss issues facing the Chicago recording industry. Don't think that you have to know anything about recording to show up at the meeting...most people who attend prove their ignorance every month! The meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday , October 30th at the Legendary Keenan O'Malley's, 2125 W. Roscoe (3400 N) in da great city of Chicaga. This month's credo: "If nominated I will not run, if elected I will not serve, and if recording, I will not put more reverb in the headphones!"

AGENDA: It's NOMINATION Time!

Just like real politicians, EARS will hold its Election for Chairpeople in November. However, we must go through that arduous process known as Nominations. You know...the method of selecting candidates by bribes, under-the-table graft, or the harmless "Hey, I'll buy the house a round of drinks if you vote for me".

At the last meeting, five names were put up for nomination: Malcolm Chisholm, famed recording legend, Hudson Fair of Ealing Recording, Paul Smith of Acme Recording, Gary Khan of Pegasus Recording and independent engineer Harry Brotman. Paul Smith bowed out using that old schoolboy excuse, "We just moved our studio and I'm really too busy." (You're excused, Paul, and good luck with the new room!) Because of the scant September meeting attendance, lack of a sober quorum, and last minute additions from the Harold Washington Party, EARS will keep the nomination process open for additional nominees at this month's meeting. The EARDRUM and the League of Women in Music Voters wishes to encourage everyone's participation in the nomination and election process. Do you know a good candidate? Are you a good candidate? Get involved!

The other election issue raised by Sue Gosstrum at the last meeting deals with how the Chairperson and Co-Chairperson are elected. Should we continue the version from last year where the top vote getter is Chairperson and the runner-up is Co-Chairperson? Or should we conduct the election on a party system, where two candidates run together on a slate for both posts with more unified goals? The answers to these questions will be hammered out at this meeting.

EARS has come to critical junction with many dilemmas that have to be solved. We are ready to move the meetings to a more congenial venue. The planning of the meetings needs to be more attuned to the needs of the members. The local back-biting that EARS was supposed to prevent has returned. Only by unified effort can we keep the EARS groove going.

Now we realize that many of the old time EARS members have tough time constraints with studio schedules conflicting against quality time at home with the new little bambinos. But the meetings aren't quite as fun without such great guys like Benj and Scott from Studiomedica, Gary Cobb from ARS, Marty "Papa Smurf" Feldman, Hank from CRC, the good folks at Opus, "The Legendary" Paul Serrano, Judd Sager from Solid Sound, Gareth Nelson from Sony, Rob Yukelich from Pyramid, and all you other sorry sods who haven't been to a meeting lately. Get away from the toxic diapers and nagging wife...come back to EARS!

APPRECIATION FILE

Thanks to all who made last month's meeting a rip-snortin', mud wrestling good time. Special thanks to Bob Tjarks and Gary Gand from Gand Music & Sound for the very informative home videos of the recent AES show in Lost Angeles. Bob did a great job focusing in on the new cool items of interest to all us EARS goons who are too cheap to actually go to the show. The 8mm video tour was the perfect way to show the drooling EARS members the gear that they will save their pennies for. Also thanks to EARS "Head" Tommy Haban, EARS "Semi-head" Hudson Fair, and SG Audio's Sue Gosstrum for their level-headed discussion on the future of EARS. It's moments like these that makes one happy to be one of the few, the proud, the deaf...a member of EARS!

Shure Surround Sound Seminar

Robert Schulein, General manager of Shure HTS will present a seminar entitled "Television and Audio/Video Production techniques using the Stereosurround Audio Production Format". A variety of live and post production situations will be described as well as specific microphone and mixing techniques that have been developed to take full advantage of the format. A series of program examples will also be presented demonstrating the capabilities of the format, stereo/mono compatability, and common transmission and duplication quality concerns.

The seminar will be held at Rent Com, Inc. on Thursday Nov. 13th at 7:30 pm. Rent Com is located at 3900 N. River Road, Schiller Park, which is about one block south of Irving Park Road. Contact Mitch Petchenik at Rent Com (312) 726-7440 or (708) 678-7000 for details.

CUB TECH TIPS

by Mike Konopka

Behind the scenes at THE EARDRUM: Djah ever wonder about the history of THE EARDRUM and how it gets to your mailbox each and every month in such a (uhhmmm) "timely" fashion?

In 1986 (a whopping 50 issues ago!!!), THE EARDRUM was founded when Jerry Soto, Timothy Powell and myself sheepishly raised our hands at the late Mike Rasfeld's call for volunteers for an EARS "PR" committee during the 3rd EARS meeting. Armed with nothing but a lowly Commodore 64, some buffalo wings, and a 6-pack of Jolt Cola, the first EARDRUM was born. After much faithful service and buffalo (burp!!) wings, Jerry Soto was forced to retire from THE EARDRUM staff in order to relocate Soto Sound to a new home. In those early days, it was not uncommon for a large group of EARS regulars such as EARS founder Mike Rasfeld, Marty Feldman, Tom Haban, Reid Hyams, Joe Tortoricci, Jerry, Timothy, and myself to "jam it up" in Seagrape's office in order to pound out another month's issue.

Well times have changed and so has THE EARDRUM's production. Our monthly budget is thankfully paid by the Chicago Chapter of NARAS as was the first issue. However, much credit

must be given to our Editor-in-chief Timothy Powell. Timothy has made numerous big money investments in software, printers, discs, labels, ribbons, and finally an Apple MAC set-up which THE EARDRUM is designed on now. Timothy won't admit this and will give you some story about "Oh, I bought this for the cool computer games" or "I bought this to make cassette labels", but I know differently. Timothy takes great pride in THE EARDRUM and also has spent countless hours writing, typing, formatting, and printing each issue. Typical work-a-holic!

Once these steps have been completed, he rushes it to Kinko's in Glenview where THE EARDRUM is printed and folded for a cost of around \$35.00. When Kninko's has finished, I usually pick them up and stop by the post office for 450 25 cent stamps. But on many occasions my wife Pat, Tom Haban, or many different Seagrape employees or interns handle this chore. It is then around a 4 hour task to label and stamp the copies and deliver them to the Devon Ave. post office for delivery. All expenses are paid with Seagrape checks which are reimbursed in about 30 days by NARAS. It costs about \$150 monthly for THE EARDRUM.

Well, that's the story behind the stories of the rag you're holding in your hand right now. No dummy...your other hand!!

LETTERS TO THE EARDRUM

Due to the wonders of modern technology and fax machines, it's easier than ever for you to give us your input. If you have a beef, a tech tip, or a wacky comment, fax it to THE EARDRUM at (708) 998-6421.

Here's a letter from one of our comrades in the big-time audio press:

Dear Eardrum,

As sessions and studio news editor for Mix Magazine, I'd like to commend you on the quality of your reporting in THE EARDRUM. In fact, some of our studio news have come directly from your publication. Please let your readers know that we here at Mix are interested in what's happening in and around the Chicago recording scene. Press releases and quality photos should be sent to my attention at 6400 Hollis Street, Suite 12, Emeryville, CA 94608; or fax it to me at (415) 653-5142. Thanks and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Jeff Forlenza, Sessions Editor

(Editor's note: Thanks, Jeff, for the vote of confidence, but have you really been reading THE EARDRUM? "Quality of reporting"? Maybe it's time for some new glasses.)