

THE EARDRUM

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ELECTIONS TO BE HELD TUESDAY!!

HUZZAH HUZZAH!!

EARS WILL MOVE MEETINGS NEXT MONTH TO NEW (AND OLD) DIGS!

After putting up with dreary surroundings, the lack of a waitress, racial insensitivity, and the general lack of a cool vibe, EARS will relocate (NEXT MONTH!) its meeting place away from The Vaguely Familiar Keenan O'Malley's. In a move designed to bring back the wild atmosphere and raucous meetings of the past, EARS will meet (STARTING IN DECEMBER) at the site of the original meetings... SCHUBA'S (formerly Gaspar's)!

The move was sparked by the rude treatment EARS recieved last month from the staff of Keenan's. On the Saturday before the last meeting, we recieved a last minute call from Keenan's informing us that our meeting had to be cancelled because they had scheduled a bachelor party in the back room and a dart tournament in the front room. It was too late to inform everybody because the EARDRUM had already gone out.

Fortunately, our Lame Duck Chairperson Tom Haban and EARDRUM Cub Reporter Mike Konopka, along with other EARS stalwarts, were able to call many EARS members and successfully move the meeting place to the friendly confines of Seagrape Recording. After a call to Schuba's, the owner Mike Schuba gladly and graciously offered us the room that made EARS famous. Just think of the memories: Marty Feldman and Reid Hyams quietly chatting and hoisting a few lemonades at the rear bar, the fist-fights over test tone standards, the thrill of the first EARS cheer, and the many sober discussions secretly held outside by the now defunct "Reality Committee". Viva Los EARS!!

EARS CREDO

If you haven't tried it, don't knock it. Check out the next EARS tea party and finger sandwich gala. Sponsored by NARAS, Chicago engineers, studio owners, students, and producers meet monthly to hoist a few drinks, argue about microphones, and discuss issues facing the Chicago recording industry. Remember, the EARS meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 27th, at 7:30 PM for the last time at The Legendary Keenan O'Malley's, 2125 W. Roscoe (3400 N) in da great city of Chicagah. **This month's credo: "That's right, blackmail. As your recording engineer, I am one of the few people who can prove that you didn't sing one one note on your own record. I want points on the record and a percentage of t-shirt sales. The secret of a successful blackmail...make it affordable!"**

EARS ELECTIONS WILL FINALLY BE HELD!!

Just when you thought that all the November election silliness was over, EARS will rear its ugly electoral head and elect a new Chairperson! That's right folks...back room deals, stuffing the ballot box, illegal campaign contributions, ward boss politics, kingmakers, palm cards...you get the picture.

At the last meeting, the issue of how the vice-chairperson gets chosen was resolved. It was decided by consensus that the election will be held for the chairperson only. After the election, the winner will announce the vice-chairperson of his choice. Sounds simple enough, but everyone knows how EARS can make anything cumbersome.

Four names are up for nomination: Malcolm Chisholm, famed recording legend, Hudson Fair of Ealing Recording, Gary Khan of Pegasus Recording and independent engineer Harry Brotman.

Each nominee will be given three minutes to present a platform. Then, questions will be taken from the floor about any damn subject you want grill the candidates about. After this emotional process, the ballots will be given out and it's your time to vote. Any ties will be decided by a duel outside in the middle of Roscoe Ave. Good luck and let the best man win!

AGENDA

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 27th at 7:30PM. The agenda will include: We will elect the new EARS Chairperson. Remember, it's Chicago, so vote early and vote often!

World famous engineer Malcolm Chisholm and SG Audio/EARS Steering Committee's Susan Gosstrom will moderate a seminar on Security Systems For The Recording Studio. This cool presentation will feature Joe Cunningham of Cunningham Security/Reliance Protective Services. Many different types and levels of protection will be discussed, as well as central station connections. Attack dogs, pungee sticks, and plastique perhaps?

Bob Tjarks from Gand Music & Sound will demo the new Lexicon 300 digital reverb after the meeting. This jammin' new box promises to bridge the gap between the under \$1500 and over \$10,000 reverbs.

QUICKIE TECH TIP

For those who don't have automated mixing, here's an inexpensive solution for marking fader levels. 3M makes #652 Post-it Brand correction & cover-up tape. Just like the sticky note paper, this 1/3" tape doesn't leave a residue. The narrow width makes it easy to put next to faders. Wow!

EDITORIAL

Well, folks, the feces has hit the fan. The same new technology that makes our jobs so much easier also makes the business of music so much more difficult. Over the last few years, we have been hearing about sampling, backwards masking, censorship, copyright lawsuits, and other silly and sundry issues. But the strange case of Milli Vanilli makes all the others pale in comparison.

The scandal hit the news last week. Both the producer and manager of the pop duo Milli Vanilli revealed that all the vocals on their Grammy-award winning debut album were not sung by the dread-locked, Spandex-clad German sensations.

This is not the first time that the group has been embroiled in controversy. A New York legislator took his teenage daughter to a Milli Vanilli concert and was shocked by the obvious

lack of live singing. He later introduced a bill requiring concert promoters to disclose on tickets whether the upcoming concert will contain pre-recorded or lip-synced portions. This legislation is informally known as the "Milli Vanilli law".

Now the news has come out that the group never sung a note on their album. An Arista Records executive did not even attempt to deny the allegations, but he did manage to proudly state that the record sold over 7 million copies! Mike Greene, President of NARAS, said that he looked into the matter and found that the charges are true. Milli Vanilli's Grammy for "Best New Artist" was taken back (NARAS actually took a stand for musical integrity!!) and may be given to the runner-up. And the people who actually sang on the record will have their own record out soon. A former Milli Vanilli fan from Chicago has begun a class action suit against the group, Arista Records, and the producer charging them with fraud. At their recent press conference, Milli Vanilli admitted the fraud and blamed the producer and record company. Who's really to blame?

What a mess! But we all probably owe Milli Vanilli a EARS cheer for bringing this issue out in the open for the average lunk-headed American to understand. Engineers involved in sound reinforcement and live recording have long known about the use of pre-recorded vocal tracks and sampled tracks during live shows. Not every instance is criminal, but it seems that in the last year, the frequency of artists who rely on pre-recorded vocal tracks has grown dramatically. This case has already revealed similar instances like Blackbox and Vanilla Ice.

Lip-syncing in concert and the use of "secret" singers MUST STOP!

When the famous opera singer Enrico Caruso lip-synced to an acoustical phonograph in front of a live audience in the 1920's, he was universally chastised. It is time for everyone in the music biz to stand up and blow the whistle on these charlatans. NARAS and the entire music community must take a strong stand for musical integrity, and prevent the kind of nationwide embarrassment felt last week.

Maybe people have gotten used to the sight of artists lip-syncing on videos and television shows. Perhaps we engineers are partially to blame because of the way we have gotten artists to accept the use of multiple punches, vocal sample fly-ins, vocal slave reels, and harmonizers. Whatever the cause, the case of the phony-bally Milli Vanilli has made everyone realize the value of good old-fashioned talent, ability, and musicianship. Do it live!

APPRECIATION FILE

Thanks to everyone who went the extra distance to make a crazy situation end up great at last month's meeting. A song of cheer and a turkey toast to Tom Haban, Mike Konopka, Dave Trumfio, and everyone else who worked hard at the last minute to move the meeting place. Thanks to Kathy "Don't Even" Yore for helping get the October Eardrum out.... And no thanks to Keenan's.