

VIBES

New Kids clear up lip-synch claims; Crowes announce loss of guitarist

In case you hadn't heard, the post-pubescent known professionally as New Kids On The Block were interrupted on their Australian tour by allegations from a former employee that the Kids both lip-synched in concert and failed to sing the actual lead vocals on their albums. In retaliation, they went on the "Arsenio Hall Show" and delivered a firebrand performance, complete with an "extemporaneous" song request.

At the end of the night, the nation's doubting Thomases agreed: all the atrocious singing on the albums, "Hangin' Tough" and "Step By Step," is 100 percent New Kids' fault.

● In depressing band-breakup news: According to Much Music, rock preservationists Living Colour and the Black Crowes announced certain members would indeed be permanently leaving the groups. Crowes guitarist Jeff Cease and Colour bassist Muzz Skillings are leaving to pursue other musical avenues. No definite plans were slated for permanent replacements, but rumor has it the boys will be joining forces with David Navarro of the now-defunct Jane's Addiction to record an album of Replacements covers.

Sorry — just wishful thinking. . . .

● According to Casey's Top 40, when "Diamonds and Pearls" hit No. 1 on the singles charts, Prince became the first artist to score top 10 hits every year for the past 10



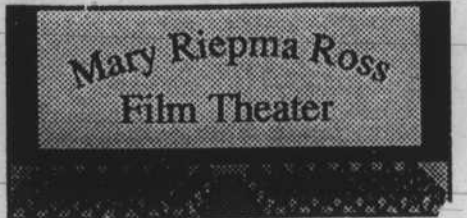
Robert Borzekowski/DN

years. The news prompted college students to rummage through their old music collection and discover that, yes, they indeed

bought the 45, "I Would Die 4 U." That's the news. And I am outta here.

— Compiled by Paul Winner

Spanish cinema premieres at Ross



From Staff Reports

"New Spanish Cinema — Post Franco," a film series that demonstrates how Spanish cinema has evolved and grown in accordance with the tremendous changes in the country, will be shown at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater Feb. 18-29.

The schedule includes:

- "Atame!" (Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down!) — Feb. 21 at 7 p.m., Feb. 22 at 3 p.m., Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. and Feb. 29 at 9 p.m.
- "Dark Habits" — Feb. 19 at 9 p.m., Feb. 23 at 9 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 9 p.m.
- "Law of Desire" — Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. followed by a lecture by Shawn Levy, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 29 at 1 p.m.
- "Matador" — Feb. 20 at 9 p.m., Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 28 at 9 p.m.
- "What Have I Done To Deserve This?" — Feb. 20 at 7 p.m., Feb. 21 at 9 p.m., Feb. 23 at 3 p.m.
- "Tasio" — Feb. 18 at 9 p.m., Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 11 a.m.
- "Furtivos" (Poachers) — Feb. 20 at 3 p.m., Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. and Feb. 27 at 1 p.m.
- "The Holy Innocents" — Feb. 21 at 1 p.m., Feb. 26 at 9 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 3 p.m.
- "The Spirit Of The Beehive" — Feb. 18 at 3:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Feb. 19 at 1 p.m.
- "Don Juan, My Dear Ghost" — Feb. 20 at 11 a.m., Feb. 22 at 1 p.m., Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 29 at 3 p.m.
- "Ay, Carmela!" — Feb. 23 at 7 p.m., Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 29 at 7 p.m.
- "Cria Cuervos" (Raise Ravens) — Feb. 25 at 3:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Feb. 26 at 1 p.m.
- "Mama Turns One Hundred" — Feb. 19 at 7 p.m., Feb. 20 at 1 p.m. and Feb. 29 at 11 a.m.
- "Opera Prima" — Feb. 21 at 11 a.m., Feb. 25 at 9:15 p.m. and Feb. 28 at 1 p.m.

American Red Cross

Wine

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it and lay the cork on the table. As a waiter, I have seen people do strange things at this point, including one gentleman who actually took to biting the cork. Don't do that, you will look very silly and your date will probably think you've been inhaling glue.

Contrary to what most people think, sniffing the cork serves no purpose. A cork smells like a cork.

If you really want to mess with one, a cork can be squeezed to make sure it is not too hard. A cork that feels like a slab of granite most likely is fine, but it may be a sign of improper sealing or storing. A cork should be firm yet give a little when squeezed. Also, mold is often an indication of a turned bottle. If there's just a bit of fungus on the top of the cork don't worry too much, but if more than half

of it is furry, the wine may have been exposed to the air. Be extra careful when tasting these wines.

Most servers won't wait for you to play with the cork at all, but will immediately pour a small amount into your glass. This is the part that usually upsets people the most — the examination of the wine.

First, pick up the glass by the stem and tilt it toward the light, preferably with something white in the background (like a tablecloth). If you look carefully, you might notice a thin, clear band around the glass on the wine's surface. This "halo" should be completely clear, even with red wines. If it's yellow or brown the wine may be bad. Don't worry about this step much until you become good at it — it takes practice.

Next, rotate the glass gently. Swirling the wine in this manner will break up its molecules and expose more of it to the air, helping release its fragrances. Lift the glass and take a

couple good sniffs. With this step you should not be attempting to notice the wine's subtle aromatic nuances; that comes later. Instead, you should be looking for an overly pungent odor of vinegar or sulfur, further indications of a bad bottle. Be careful when applying this step to Cabernet Sauvignons and other rich reds, which are heady by nature.

Having sniffed the wine, raise the glass to your lips. Take in about a tablespoon and slowly swirl it around. If you are coordinated enough to do so without spilling, draw in some air through your mouth as you move the wine around. Tastes to watch out for are sulfur and vinegar, excessively sour, moldy or earthy flavors. If a wine has turned, you'll know.

The main thing to remember is that you're not trying to decide whether you like the wine, but if it has turned. If you order a bottle that's not spoiled and you don't care for it, tough cookies. If you order a bottle that's turned,

tell the server to get you a new one. And don't be shy. In most cases, restaurant owners get full compensation for every bottle they return to the vineyard.

Also, don't overdo it. Modern bottling techniques rarely permit spoilage, especially with finer wines. A bad bottle is a rarity.

If these steps still seem daunting and you would rather not deal with them at all, you could do one more thing to circumvent the process without looking like a boob. After the bottle has been presented and opened, as the first sip is being poured, just say to the server, "Oh, I'm sure it's fine."

Say that confidently and people will think you know what you're doing. Of course, on the off-chance the wine turns out to be spoiled, you'll be even more embarrassed to tell the server.

That's all there is to tasting wine at the table. So, until you next drink of wine, let no storm cloud your vines.

foul-mouthed Jimmy was excellent. He attacks this role like he wants every member of the audience to hate him, and he succeeds beautifully.

The best performance, however, is Uma Thurman's. Her portrayal of the psychologically traumatized Diana was terrific. She sways back and forth between opposite ends of the emotional spectrum with ease.

Despite its run-to-the-snack-bar moments, "Final Analysis" is a good movie — good enough to see before it comes out on video.

Final

Continued from Page 9

(several times) with a dumbbell, and . . . well, from there it gets pretty weird.

Directed by Phil Joanou ("Sea Of Love"), this movie has something for almost everyone. It has suspense, adventure, romance and (surprisingly enough) more humor than one might expect from the previews and publicity it's been getting.

The main problem with "Final Analysis" is that it drags in several spots. However, once plot twists and turns hit, the viewer will be in for quite a ride.

Gere does well as Barr, but we don't get to see any real variety of emotions from his character. Basinger also does very well in this movie, showing us a broader range of acting abilities than she has shown us in the past.

Roberts' appearance was superb. His portrayal of the manipulative,

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