

A&E Briefs

Turning 70 involves parties, fund-raisers for Angelou

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — For Maya Angelou, turning 70 didn't just bring a birthday.

It brought months of birthday parties.

The poet turned 70 on April 4, but the celebrations keep going.

First Oprah Winfrey threw a bash with a weeklong cruise, then there was the London birthday fund-raiser, and next month there's another fund-raiser.

"Yes, the celebration has been going on all year — and I'm still standing, thank you," Angelou said from her home in Winston-Salem.

"I believe I've had enough birthday parties this year to carry me into my 90s."

DeGeneres' mom becomes spokeswoman for gay causes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Strangers would stop her on the street to tell their story, but Betty DeGeneres didn't mind.

After her daughter Ellen DeGeneres went public about her homosexuality along with her TV alter ego on "Ellen," people learned that Betty DeGeneres was fine with that. She became a hot commodity, appearing on television.

She was recognized so frequently by people who poured their hearts out to her that she decided to quit her job as a speech therapist and become a national spokeswoman for gay causes.

"It feels like my mission in life. I just jumped in at the deep end," she said.

New Releases



The Chemical Brothers
"Brother's Gonna Work It Out"
Astralwerks
Grade: B-

As the front-runners of break-beat electronica, the Chemical Brothers simultaneously have

become exclusive figures of b-boy hipsterism and over-hyped objects of ridicule.

For the record, they belong in the former category more than the latter. And their latest album, "Brother's Gonna Work It Out," is proof.

Less a full-fledged album than an extended mix tape, "Brother's" lays out a barrage of old songs from the Chemicals, their cohorts and their past influences.

Unlike the Chemicals' previous releases, "Brother's" contains minimal modification and reorganization of tracks. Most of the songs are left to play out on their own, and Tom Rowlands and Ed Simons are responsible mostly for blending the tracks into one another. This isn't the style of DJ mixing that made them famous, but it's how they got

their start. And it shows why they became such underground club legends before they had even released a single.

The album starts off with the title track, Willie Hutch's classic number from "The Mack" soundtrack, and then jumps forward to mostly '90s tabletop rockers, most notably artists such as Meat Beat Manifesto ("Mars Needs Women") and Spiritualized (a fantastic remix of "Think I'm in Love").

Fans who are expecting another collection of tunes akin to "Setting Sun" and "Elektrobank" might want to steer clear of this one. But true fans of the hip-hop culture that spawned the Chemical Brothers and the plethora of artists who travel the same road as them should give it a shot.

— Jeff Randall

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Punk mall offers alternatives

PUNK from page 7

Two months ago, the three started looking for a space to house their two stores. They chose the building on 14th Street after Bird expressed an interest in moving in a new coffee shop. For the Stevensens and Chasek, a third partner meant cheaper rent and another draw for customers.

The four owners have been in their new space for three weeks now. They say the response has been positive, and they are counting on word-of-mouth to spread the word of the punk pinnacle.

"The stores lead towards each other," Chasek said. "People who are shopping for clothes are interested in music. And, the people who come to look at my records are definitely interested in the clothes."

In addition to the mingling of clientele, Chasek said, the physical space enhances the presentation of the merchandise.

Zero Street's section in the building's basement is double the size of the old space, allowing Chasek to

place more of his inventory out on the shelves.

"The space is more like a record shop should be," he said.

As for the upstairs, the owners have already finished some renovations.

When they moved in, they tore down the building's drywall, took out the drop ceiling and painted the walls.

Future plans include the construction of a loft in the Ozone's section.

"You're seeing the same clothes," Chasek said, "but in a much better venue."

While Zero Street and the Ozone may be improving on an old formula, The Location is a new experiment.

The grab-and-go shop offers a range of gourmet coffees, Italian sodas, teas and fruit drinks as well as baked goods.

"It's for people who don't have time to stand in line for 20 minutes to get a cup of coffee ... people who have somewhere to be," Lewis said.

Bird said The Location also

appeals to health-conscious customers. In addition to a full line of caffeinated beverages, The Location carries the Nature's Sunshine Herbs line: a series of herbal products for better health and nutrition.

Eventually, Bird and Lewis would like to present art shows at The Location. The two believe art exhibitions are a natural outgrowth of the triad.

Despite all the future goals for the three businesses, plans do not include name changes for the Ozone or Zero Street, although many connect the names with the stores' locations on O Street.

"There's more history to the names than just the location on O," Chasek said.

That history includes a reputation of providing customers with something other than the norm, Lewis said.

Now, with three, three, three stores in one, the triumvirate's pinnacle to all that is punk promises to offer a variety you'll not find at any suburban shopping mall.

Caulfield Records makes business move

CAULFIELD from page 7

when I was working on it," McGinn said.

"I think it will be a pretty cool arrangement, actually, because I'm able to help Kevin with some of his stuff that he has on stock at the record store through my mail order."

Chasek said making his inventory accessible through McGinn's mail order was one of the best things about the cooperation between the two operations.

"That way, I can be involved in his mail order and move product that doesn't sell locally. And it helps him out by making his mail order more diverse," Chasek said.

By July, McGinn had set up Caulfield's office under Zero Street, and had everything ready to go. But only two weeks after settling into his new hideout, McGinn had to relocate again because Zero Street itself was moving — to its present location of 120 N. 14th St.

Chasek remembered the first time he met McGinn four years ago at a Caulfield showcase, which included performances by McGinn's former band Sideshow, local heroes Mercy Rule and other Caulfield groups Christie Front Drive and Giants Chair. Chasek said he talked to McGinn at that show, a conversation Chasek thinks McGinn probably does not remember, and said the two did not become close until Chasek started having shows at his house in the summer of 1997.

"We were just talking about what bands should play, and he asked me if I'd ever want to play together sometime. Then we started the band Luck of Aleia, and we've been good

friends ever since," Chasek said.

Luck of Aleia includes McGinn on guitar and vocals, the bass and vocals of Chasek, drummer Ryan Krummel and guitarist Jeremy Podliska.

After the band formed in November 1997, Luck of Aleia played its first gig in March, and McGinn and Chasek's relationship grew.

And when McGinn became fed up with the brutal heat he encountered in the summer while running Caulfield out of his attic, Chasek offered McGinn the opportunity to bring the label into cooperation with his own independently run business. Well, sort of.

"Part of the way that happened was I found out that he designs Web pages, and I asked him if he could help me out as far as a Web page," Chasek said. "We haven't got around to (the Web page) yet, but as soon as Bernie gets down here and sets up Caulfield, Zero Street's Web page will hopefully be up and running."

Besides wanting to work in a different environment, McGinn had different motives that influenced his decision to move Caulfield away from his home.

"Another reason why I moved the label was to be able to bring other people into it, because it's really only been me," McGinn said. "So now that it's in a more businesslike atmosphere, it will help a lot to be able to bring other people in to help be more efficient."

Don't let this confuse you. Caulfield is still a one-man show, but that could change in the future, McGinn said. Chasek has offered help with the label's mail orders, but

"(Caulfield) was definitely started just to put out Sideshow records because no one else was interested in doing it."

BERNIE MCGINN
owner of Caulfield Records

he and McGinn have yet to figure out what his part will be.

"I would love to help him out as much as I could with Caulfield," Chasek said. "But as far as a business partner is concerned, I don't see that happening just because Bernie is so effective at it by himself that I really don't see him asking for a partner."

For now, Chasek and McGinn are focused on finishing the record they recorded with Luck of Aleia in time for the band's tour of the Midwest during the winter break.

McGinn said he's excited about releasing the first Luck of Aleia album because he hasn't released a record he's played on since Sideshow's last Caulfield release in 1994.

"It's been fun because I'd spent more than 10 years playing with the guys from Sideshow," McGinn said. "I'd been playing with those guys for so long that it was really cool to start playing music with three other people that I've never played with before."