

# Good Works

**CASSIDY DAY:** The David Cassidy Day at the Races benefiting KidsCharities.org will take place Aug. 4 at the Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. **Cassidy** will host the event, which includes a luncheon, thoroughbred races, family games, and a raffle. Funds will be distributed to the Belmont Child Care Assn., the Northeast Parent & Child Society, and the Catie Hoch Foundation for Neuroblastoma

Research via KidsCharities. Contact: **Debbie Avellino** at 518-581-7610.

**MARROW CAMPAIGN:** Japanese composer/keyboardist **Keiko Matsui** has spearheaded a campaign to benefit the National Marrow Donor Program, beginning at her July 28 concert at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach, Calif. A portion of the ticket proceeds from her worldwide tour stops will go to the organization. Narada Jazz is also releasing a four-song enhanced EP of Matsui's material titled *Gift of Life*. All the money raised from the sale of the CD will also be donated to the program, which raises awareness for the need for marrow donors. Contact: **Athena Pope** at 310-391-9684.



# The Beat



by Melinda Newman

**PEARL DROPS:** The bad news is that the **Pearl Jam** hits collection Epic tentatively had slated for an October release has been taken off the schedule. The good news, according to the label, is that the band has instead decided to return to the studio in February to work on a new album.

Lead singer **Eddie Vedder** will take part in the upcoming alternative music festival All Tomorrow's Parties, to be held Oct. 19-21 at the University of California Los Angeles. Curated by **Sonic Youth**, the event will also feature the **Jon Spencer Blues Explosion**, **Stereolab**, **Stephen Malkmus**, and **Cecil Taylor**. All Tomorrow's Parties originated three years ago in London; this marks the first State-side edition.

**COMING ROUND AGAIN:** David Cassidy will release his first album on a major label in 11 years this October when Universal Records U.K. puts out *Then and Now*.

Cassidy, who is now signed to Universal worldwide, says a U.S. release has not yet been secured, but he's hoping for a 2002 release.

"We're going to meet with Universal's [U.S. team], when I deliver the CD in about six weeks," says Cassidy from London, where he's completing the project. "But I'm sure what they're going to say is, 'Let's see how it does in the U.K. and the rest of the world.' Whether they'll be committed to it depends upon who's there at the moment they get it."

Cassidy's last album, *Old Dog New Trick*, came out on his own label, Slamajama, in 1998. It featured the track "No Bridge I Wouldn't Cross," which reached No. 23 on the Adult Contemporary chart. Prior to that was 1990's *David Cassidy*, released on Enigma Records. Hit single "Lyin' to Myself" was No. 27 on The Billboard Hot 100 when the Capitol-distributed label folded.

After that disappointment, Cassidy focused on the stage, including stints in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Blood Brothers* on Broadway with his brother **Shaun**.

In the mid-'90s, Cassidy replaced **Michael Crawford** in the Las Vegas show *EFX*. His success there led to two other Vegas shows, *At the Copa* (with **Sheena Easton**), in which he performed as well as produced, and *The Rat Pack is Back*, which he produced. It was during *At the Copa*'s run that

Universal came calling. "They came to see the show eight or nine months ago," Cassidy says. "They said, 'No one has your material in the U.K.,' and I said, 'We can do something about that.'" The album will consist of new material that Cassidy has written (in some cases, with his wife, songwriter **Sue Shifrin**), his take on some classic tunes, such as **Bill Withers**' "Ain't No Sunshine," and remakes of some **Partridge Family** songs.

Cassidy is on his first U.S. tour in 10 years and will play more than 50 dates before the current leg ends in the fall. He plans to tour England in November and possibly follow with his first

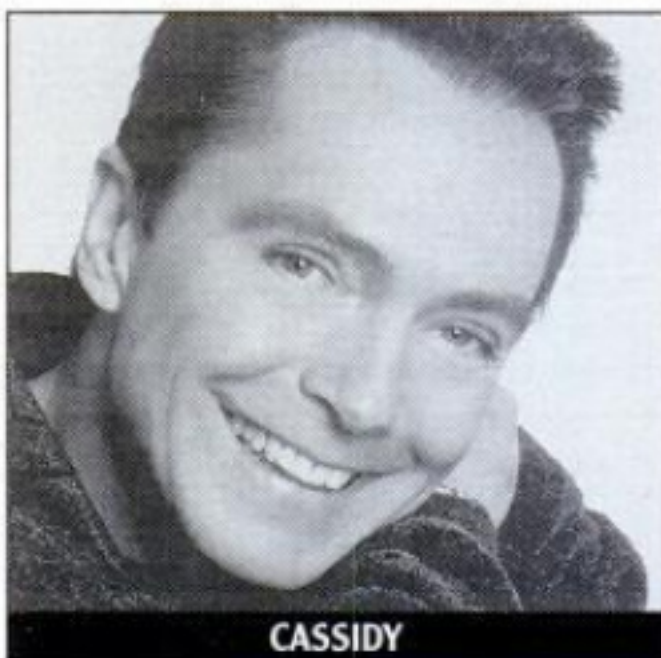
tour of the Far East in 25 years.

His U.S. dates included a July 21 show at Los Angeles' Greek Theatre that left him glowing: "The audience wasn't jaded at all; they were overtly enthusiastic. I just wanted to go out and play and have a great time and celebrate the fact

that I've been doing this for 30 years. I love that they were so open."

**ALL ACCESS:** Dick Clark Productions (DCP) has launched a new record label, Access Records, with the signing of Russian pop group **Na-Na!** The Los Angeles-based label, which is still lining up distribution, will be run by president **Larry Klein**, who also serves as producer of a number of DCP's properties, including *The American Music Awards*. Partnered with DCP in the new label are **Edward J. Fishman** of Fishman-Freer Productions and **Tristan Shaun Del**, co-founder of USSU Arts Group, which focuses on exposing Russian artists to an international audience. Na-Na!'s album is slated for release next year.

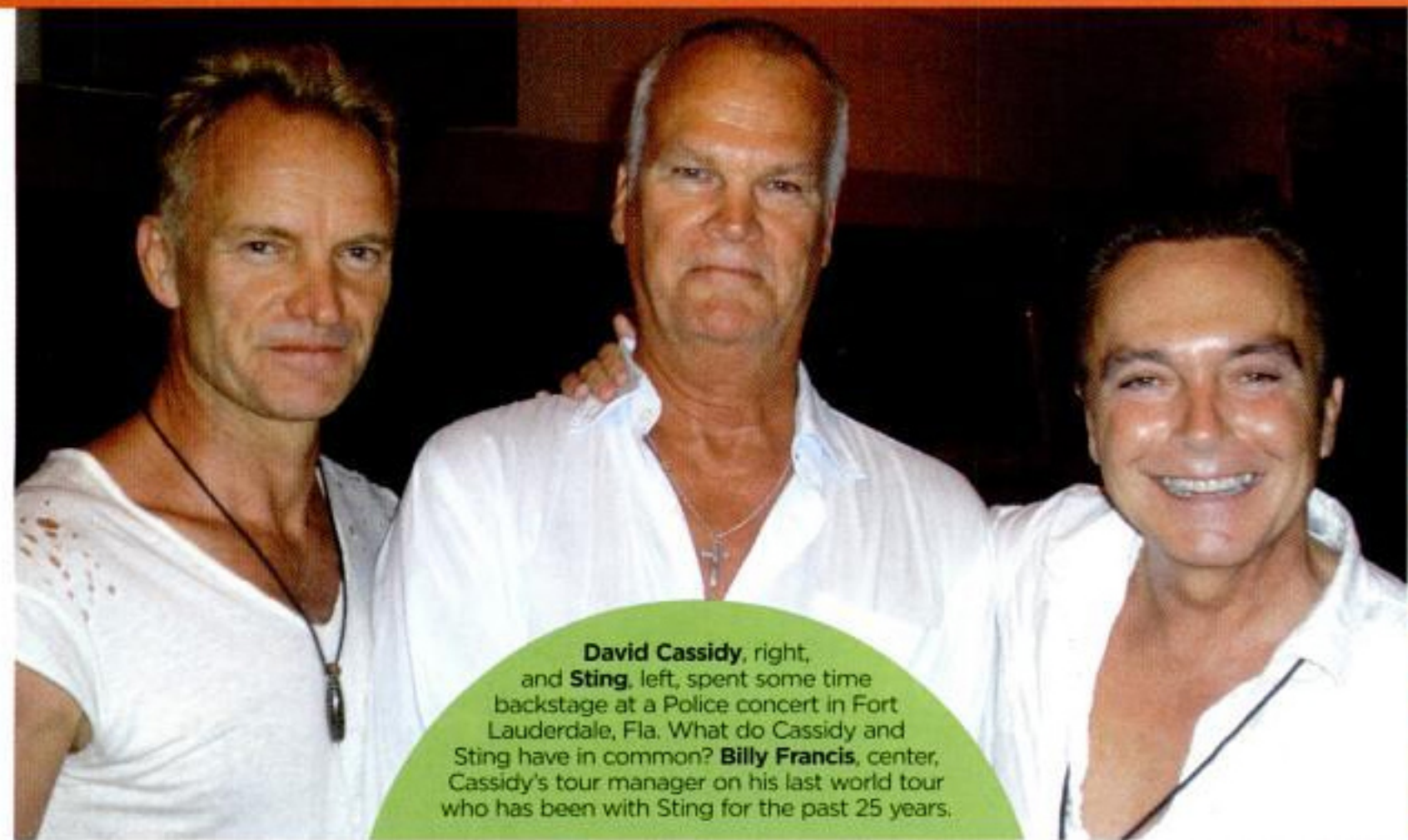
**CHANGES:** Columbia act **Evan & Jaron** have parted ways with Direct Management . . . Maverick Records laid off 10% of its 60-person, Beverly Hills, Calif.-based work force July 19. Among those let go are president **Bill Bennett**, head of sales **Tegra Little**, and publicity head **Kymm Britton**. Sales will now be handled by Warner Bros. (which owns 50% of Maverick), while publicity will be outsourced. Maverick partner and head of business affairs **Ronnie Dashev** says the label roster remains intact and that Maverick's 10-person field staff was not affected by the layoffs.



CASSIDY



# BACKBEAT



**David Cassidy**, right, and **Sting**, left, spent some time backstage at a Police concert in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. What do Cassidy and Sting have in common? **Billy Francis**, center, Cassidy's tour manager on his last world tour who has been with Sting for the past 25 years.