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Presents

The Conclave

TATTLER

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Since his death last week, **Michael Jackson's** record sales have gone through the roof. **Nielsen SoundScan** is reporting nearly 2.95 million Michael Jackson digital track sales in the US, across Europe, Australia and New Zealand compared to just 52,000 the week before. In the US, the top two selling albums last week were MJ's "Number Ones" and "The Essential Michael Jackson," outselling the top-selling new record. More MJ albums were sold this past week than through the entire first 25 weeks of 2009 combined and on the catalog chart, eight of the Top 10 positions were owned by an MJ product. Even after death, MJ broke some records, including: * The first time the #1 album has sold more than the #1 album on the Billboard Top 200 album chart. * The first time ever that the same artist had 8 out of the top 10 positions on a chart. * Holds the top 4 spots on the Digital Album Chart this week and 6 out of the top 10 positions. * First Artist to ever have 1 million or more tracks sold in one week. * Sold more than 2,300,000 digital tracks (as well as 292,000 Jackson 5 tracks) this week. * Has 36 songs in the Top 200 Digital Song chart (There were also six Jackson 5 songs on the chart). * Nine songs were downloaded more than 100,000 times. *Comment: It has been said before by others this past week, but Michael's passing last Thursday demonstrated how far the medium has removed itself from the immediacy which used to identify it as a number one source for news. Far too many stations in large and small markets alike had to interrupt voice tracking or pre-recorded syndication to break the news (some, way after the fact) that in another day would have been handled expeditiously by handing a wire story to the talent on duty. Within minutes, the community would have knowledge of Michael's untimely passing. And most music radio would have shifted to Michael's music, even if that music hadn't been part of the format's regimen. We salute the stations that embraced their important heritage by handling Michael's death*

with propinquity. Those who did not, remind us important radio history has been sadly forgotten or unlearned. Indeed, it is not 1977 or 1980 anymore. – TK

Former **Air America Radio** host and comedian **Al Franken** is officially the next Senator from Minnesota. The MN Supreme court ruled 5-0 in favor of Franken who beat incumbent Republican and former **Hubbard** Talk KSTP-AM host **Norm Coleman** by only 225 votes. When Franken – 2005 Conclave Keynote - is sworn into office, he will be the first former radio talk-show host to do so.

Have you ever considered joining the only multi-formatic non-profit educational organization in our industry? The **Conclave** Board of Directors will be meeting on Saturday, July 18th at the conclusion of the 34th annual Learning Conference. At that meeting, they will be receiving applications to join the Board. Because the Board's summer meeting is coincidental with the Learning Conference, interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting in person. The meeting begins at 1PM. Conclave By Laws stipulate that Board members donate no fewer than 100 hours annually to the organization. Executive Committee members donate what they can. Standard practice allows interested Board members to spend a year helping the Conclave as a bona-fide member. If this candidate - after their year of 'pledging' – desires to continue their commitment, they will be accorded full membership. While Board or Executive Committee hopefuls are encouraged to attend the meeting in person, application may also be performed in writing. Applications should be sent to the Conclave (4517 Minnetonka Blvd #104, Minneapolis, MN 55416 or email <mailto:tomk@theconclave.com>) and delivered prior to the July 18th meeting. For more information, contact the Conclave at 952-927-4487 or email tomk@theconclave.com. *Comment: The Conclave, like the rest of the industry, is moving into uncharted waters and to continue its success, it needs help. Anyone from any walk of life is welcome to join the Board. The Conclave is especially interested in recruiting members of the broadcast radio and new media industries to guide this organization. There is no minimum professional experience requirement - and market size or location isn't relevant to membership. If you've been around the block, come bring your experience. If you're new to industry, bring that fresh outlook. See you at the Conclave Board meeting! - TK*

Thank you, 2009 Conclave Partners!



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President Barack Obama granted an exclusive interview with **Saga** Talk-Ag WNAX-AM/Yankton, SD announcing a "Rural Tour" of America. Obama told Farm Director **Michelle Rook** that the tour starts immediately and that he will gather input from farmers and rural residents about his plan for rural America. Obama also discussed climate change legislation passed last week in the House and is now waiting on a vote in the Senate, including the controversial "cap and trade" proposal.

Arbitron claims double digit gains in its Designated Delivery Index (DDI) sample quality metric for young people 18-34 in the first month of cell-phone-only sampling from 151 Spring 2009 diary markets. That's 17 points higher than the previous survey for people 18-34 in two-book markets and 11 points higher in four-book markets. Arbitron claims to have found a solution to those who have "cut the cord" and no longer use landlines.

PPM is now under investigation by the **House Oversight and Government Reform Committee** because of its reputation for under-representing ethnic and certain age groups. **Arbitron** says it welcomes the opportunity to inform the public of their methodology. The **PPM Coalition** also "looks forward to working with Chairman Towns, other members of the committee, the FCC and other stakeholders to address the flaws in the PPM system. We once again call on Arbitron to act responsibly and suspend further roll out of the PPM system in any market without Media Rating Council (MRC) accreditation, and to reinstate a parallel diary-based ratings system in markets where the PPM system is already in use but is unaccredited by the MRC. We continue to support the goal of an electronic measurement system that accurately represents all radio listeners and we stand ready to work with all stakeholders in the radio industry toward that objective. However, until that goal is reached, Arbitron must take action to mitigate the harms caused by the introduction of the current flawed PPM system."

President Barack Obama signed the Webcaster Settlement Act of 2009 giving the labels and Internet radio stations 30 days to agree over how much Web stations should pay to stream their music. Former **President George W. Bush** signed a similar bill last year but a deal was never reached. Although **SoundExchange** has reached royalty packs, "pureplay"

webcasters, small commercial webcasters and religious broadcasters still don't have deals because the prices are too steep and could force them out of business.

"**Glenn Beck's** Common Sense" is on top of the **New York Times** paperback non-fiction best-seller list. Beck's book has already been through seven printings since June, giving Beck – 2007 Conclave keynoter – two Top-5 books on the chart, with "An Inconvenient Book" at #4. The **Premiere** host, one of a select few to hit the top of Times' fiction, non-fiction and non-fiction paperback bestseller lists, plans to release "Arguing with Idiots" later this year.

Congrats to the **Edward R. Murrow** Award winners from the Radio-TV News Directors Association. Here are winners from the neighborhood: **Radio Large Market:** Continuing Coverage: KMOX-AM/St. Louis, The Floods of 2008, Feature Reporting: KOA-AM/Denver, "Swingers". News Documentary: WBEZ/Chicago, "Death's Footprint". News Series: KWMU/St. Louis, "Gangs of North St. Louis". Newscast: KMOX-AM/St. Louis, Newscast 8:00a 2/8/08. **Radio: Small Market:** Overall Excellence: WJBC-AM/Bloomington, IL. Investigative Reporting: WAKR-AM/Akron, "Bungalo 5 & Hot Spots" and Website: WAKR-AM/Akron, Akronnewsnow.com.



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No Hits Barred? With so much angst currently existing between the radio and records - especially concerning the highly charged royalties issue - it would appear the industries that were once united in bringing music to the world are now at an impasse. But are they really? The Conclave will be presenting an important presentation addressing the current radio/record industry relationship at the 34th annual Learning Conference in Minneapolis, July 16-18. The session – **NO HITS BARRED** – takes place Friday, July 17th at 1:30PM. **Joel Denver**, CEO of Allaccess.com, will moderate the discussion. **Erik Bradley**, APD at WBBM/Chicago, and **Erik Olesen**, Sr. VP/Promotion at Island-Def Jam records will join him. Expect candor with a generous supply of passion! *Comment: Not only will this session candidly discuss the current differentiations separating these allied industries, it will more importantly seek to discover the commonalities that still exist inside them. Like all Conclave sessions, NO HITS BARRED will seek answers to difficult questions confronting our professional lives by providing a forum for ALL who attend to enter into solution seeking. These three individuals are absolutely the right folks to be tackling these issues. – TK*

Gapwest Broadcasting/Billings, MT held their '4th Annual Ride for Relay' to raising \$2k for the upcoming 'Relay for Life.' The four-hour ride traveled through the Beartooth Mountains followed by a BBQ. This ride keeps growing every year, bringing awareness for the Relay and for Cancer awareness.

Veteran News/Talk Programmer and consultant **Brian Jennings** - keynoter at this year's Conclave Learning Conference - joins the **New Broadcast Partners** as a consultant. Jennings is a former VP for News/Talk/Sports programming at **Citadel** and most recently wrote a book titled, "Censorship: The Threat to Silence Talk Radio."

More Michael Jackson: *Magic of the 80s*, a weekly, two-hour syndicated radio program focusing on Adult Contemporary music and memories from the 1980s is celebrating nine years on the air this weekend. The program is hosted by **Tom Furci** of WHUD/Newburgh/Poughkeepsie, NY. WHUD also serves as the flagship of the program that is also carried by other Adult format stations nationally. **Max Radio Network**, the program's distributor, is offering a special edition of the program devoted to the music and memories of **Michael Jackson** on a no-obligation, no-cost, barter basis to non-affiliates, as a way to introduce to the program to new stations. The *Michael Jackson Special* is scheduled to air

the weekend of July 11-12 on WHUD and current affiliates. Stations interested in downloading and airing the program can send a request to <mailto:info@magicofthe80s.com>.

Clear Channel/Miami ups **OM Rod Phillips** to SVP/Programming for the Toulas Region of Stations. Phillips will also work with **Dave Crowl** in the South and West Regional markets beginning July 13th.

Urban WGCI/Chicago adds **Loni Swain** for Middays and **Consuella Williams** for nights, replacing **Bionce Foxx** and **Frankie Robinson** effective July 6th.

Country KZSN/Wichita signs **Anthony Allen** as their new PD/Middayer effective July 13th. Allen was previously PD/Afternoons at **Eagle Communications** Country KSJQ/St. Joseph, MO.

Lincoln Financial Top 40/Rhythmic KQKS/Denver grabs **Gina Lee Fuentez** for Afternoons. Fuentez will be paired with KQKS vet **DJ Chonz**.



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Former **Triad** Classic Country WIRL-AM/Peoria, IL PD/Morning man **Dan Dermody** has been named "Illinois Country Music Air Personality of the Year"! Dermody is a 23-year Peoria radio vet, but was downsized by the budget axe in May.

Citadel Talk WLS-AM/Chicago is celebrating their 20th anniversary flip to Talk with a 2-hour special this weekend, "The Big Hosts of the Big 89." The special will be hosted by **Jeff Davis** and will include interviews with the station's **Roe Conn, Don Wade** and **Roma, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity** and **Mark Levin**. WLS PD **Bob Shomper** said, "We are blessed to have one of the best talk lineups in the country on WLS! This special program will take a peek behind the curtains and provide our listeners with a unique and candid perspective from the best talk hosts heard in Chicago."

Long-time Chicago radio vet **James Vanosdol** is writing a book, the working title is "Chicago Rocked! 1990-1999." Vanosdol worked at Alternative WKQX, Alternative-Active Rocker WZZN (now defunct) and AAA WXRT and has spent the last couple years writing, putting together hundreds of hours of exclusive interviews and stories from artists, label owners, studio engineers, club owners and scenesters who made the Chicago scene "happen in the 1990's. Vanosdol is currently an Affiliate Mgr. for **Emmis/Chicago**.



Country blues rocker **Steve Azar**, who is best known for his big hits, "I Don't Have To Be Me (Til Monday)," "Waitin' On Joe," "You Don't Know A Thing," and "You're My Life," will grace the Conclave Learning Conference stage as the featured performer during the 2009 Awards Luncheon, Friday, July 17th inside the Sheraton South Hotel/Minneapolis, sponsored by **Arbitron**. Steve

is a uniquely gifted songwriter, singer and musician. The Mississippi native who is equally at home in country, blues and rock – is most comfortable on stage. By the time graduated from college, Azar had built a legion of fans, playing more than 240 shows a year at the Delta's largest clubs and festivals, touring with two 28-foot trucks and 10 men on the payroll. And that experience has paid off. He has since shared the stage with some of music's best, including Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet

Band, Amy Grant, Faith Hill and Hootie & the Blowfish, to name a few. In 2008, he released the critically-acclaimed *Indianola*, for which he wrote all 15 tracks on the album; completely produced and engineered the record, and played most all of the string instruments on the project as well. Azar, who is also a golf enthusiast, has been ranked among Golf Digest's top five musician golfers for two consecutive years. He is so adept at the sport that he will be appearing on an episode of "Playing Lessons from the Pros," where he'll team up with 13-time PGA champ **Kenny Perry** on the Golf Channel on July 6! *Rumor: one of Steve's best friends is an athlete headed for his sport's Hall of Fame...but not, perhaps, without a stop at a very nearby professional club. Might this HOF'er join Steve at the Conclave?*

Former **Emmis** Alternative WKQX/Chicago PD **Marc Young** returns to **Riviera** Alternative KEDJ/Phoenix as PD, effective mid-July.

Condolences to family and friends of **Norm Pellegrini**, longtime PD of **Window to the World Communications** Classical WFMT/Chicago, who passed last week at 79.



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