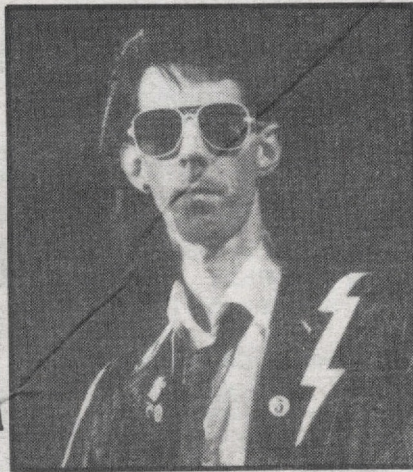


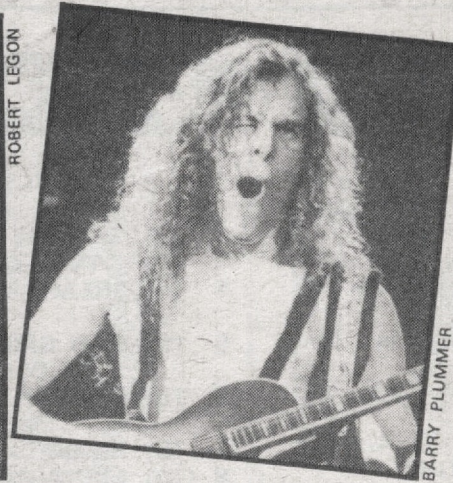
U.S. news



KATE SIMON



ROBERT LEGON



BARRY PLUMMER

PATTI SMITH: retiring?

CARS: frolic in the dark.

TED NUGENT: limo talk.

Joni and the Cars come to the rescue

AS the sluggish summer season grinded to a halt, two fine outdoor concerts rescued New York. Joni Mitchell played her jazz at Forest Hills, and the Cars prayed to the ghost of "96 Tears" in Central Park.

With a band that includes Pat Metheny, Lyle Mays, Michael Brecker, and Jaco Pastorius, Joni included a selection from "Mingus," showing the range of her work while managing to unify it in the contemporary form. Her encore was "Shadows And Light," performed mostly acapella, with the Persuasions in support. Time, many people feel, for a new live album to preserve these interpretations.

The Cars played a sodden Wollman's Skating Rink, but the dark-

New York: Davitt Sigerson

ness of the night didn't stop a frolic. The sense of Roy Thomas Baker's artful production was preserved on stage as Rik Ocasek and Benjamin Orr ticked through "Let The Good Times Roll," "Let's Go," and "My Best Friend's Girl." "Double Life" missed the exquisitely shifting emphasis in rhythm between drum machine, drums and plucked guitar, but "Bye Bye Love," sung by Orr, shimmered with moody power.

GIRLS' talk: Blondie is so marked by Debbie Harry's celebrity that

they've taken to dumping full ashtrays and wine-glasses on scribes who mention her too often during interviews. So says Ann Bardach in the New York Times. In future, remember to bring wellies. Patti Smith has given her band a paid leave through the end of 1979. Patti, happy in Detroit with Fred "Sonic" Smith, will make a solo album and then, perhaps, retire from the biz to make babies.

TED NUGENT has been fighting for custody of his kids (Sacha, 6, and Toby, 3). His brother-in-law and one time roadie Andrew Jezowski testified that the Nuge and four of his chums did a groupie in the back of a limousine. Ted counter-charged wife Sandra with drug-taking. They settled out of court.

Frampton-alive again

PETER Frampton returned to Los Angeles with a concert at the Forum which wasn't sold out at show-time. Three years ago, Frampton did five nights at the 18,000-seat arena. Much of that audience has vanished, however, and so has Frampton's chart position.

Despite all that, the gig was fine. The older tunes, mostly taken from his record-breaking live double-album, were greeted with applause, and the new songs were recognised right off the bat. He has some very loyal fans, who still scream, and the two-hour performance wasn't a waste of my time. His career has nose-dived since the Sgt Pepper movie and his serious car accident, but Frampton just played his music like he did on the 1976 tour, when he was at a peak. It's just that this time it was a one-night stand.

RICHARD Meltzer, author of *Gulcher* and formerly leader of *Vom*, will be host-



LYNN McAFEE

PETER FRAMPTON

Los Angeles: Harvey Kubernik

ing his own radio programme debuting in late September Saturday night from 2 to 6 am on KPFK-FM (90.7). The rock show will be called *Hep Cats From Hell*. "The show", Meltzer says, "is the equivalent of having people over and listening to music, drinking a few. I won't play any David Bowie, Brian Eno, Rickie Lee Jones, or the Cars. There'll be lots of Jim Morrison and the Doors, and live new wave tapes from the Hong Kong Cafe. Studio guests will also be present. I'll also play Michael Pagliaro, who is the greatest rocker in North America, except he's from Canada and sings mostly in French."

THIS week A&M Records announced that it had fired 34 employees and had dissolved its Horizon label. The Hollywood music industry was a bit surprised by A&M's actions, considering the label is charting with *Supertramp*, *the Police*, *Joe Jackson* and others. Horizon, a relatively new jazz label headed by Tommy LiPuma, is expected to place several of its acts on the A&M roster. Those mentioned so far include *Dr John*, *Neil Larsen* and *Brenda Russell*.

EVERY week clubs and discos are opening in Southern California. This week the Marina Bistro switched to a new wave format, and bookings for September include *Passenger*, *Bates Motel*, *the Weirz*, *707*, *Snapp* with *Steve Diamond*, *the Model* and *the Mechanics*. The Whiskey has an impressive September line-up: *X*, *the Chambers Brothers*, *Snow*, *Michael Nesmith*, *Magazine*, *Human Hands* and the return of the *Cowsills*.

DICK Clark's *American Bandstand* this week was broadcast live to Japan. Appearing were the *Beach Boys*, *Patrick Hernandez* and *Shotgun*.