

**THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC** Painstakingly compiled by: B. Derek Shaw  
A farewell to some of the talent who passed away in 2011...

**January 4<sup>th</sup>:** Grady Chapman, 81, tenor lead of the Robins, heart failure and Gerry Rafferty, 63, songwriter and member of Stealers Wheel, liver failure. **7<sup>th</sup>:** Bobby Robinson, 93, owner of Red Robin, Whirlin' Disc, Fire, Fury and Enjoy labels who discovered and produced groups like the Vocaleers, Velvets, Channels, Teen-chorals and Kodaks, declining health. **17<sup>th</sup>:** Don Kirshner,



76, record producer and songwriter and host of *Don Kirshner's Rock Concert*, heart failure. **26<sup>th</sup>:** Gladys Horton, 65, founder and lead singer of The Marvelettes, complications from a stroke. **27<sup>th</sup>:** Don Rondo, 81, singer ("White Silver Sands"), lung cancer. **30<sup>th</sup>:** John Barry, 77, British film score composer (From Russia with Love, Chaplin, Out of Africa), five-time Academy Award winner, heart attack. **February 6<sup>th</sup>:** Gary Moore, 58, Irish rock guitarist and singer (Thin Lizzy), heart attack.

**8<sup>th</sup>:** Marvin Sease, 64, blues singer, pneumonia. **March 4<sup>th</sup>:** Johnny Preston, 71, "The Gentleman Rocker from Texas" ("Running Bear"), heart failure. **17<sup>th</sup>:** Ferlin Husky, 85, country music singer, heart failure. **31<sup>st</sup>:** Mel McDaniel, 68, country music singer ("Baby's Got Her Blue Jeans On"), cancer.



**April 4<sup>th</sup>:** Randy Wood, 94, record producer, founder of Dot Records, complications from a fall.

**26<sup>th</sup>:** Phoebe Snow, 60, singer-songwriter ("Poetry Man"), brain hemorrhage.

**29<sup>th</sup>:** David Mason, 85, British trumpeter, played trumpet solo on "Penny Lane", leukemia. **May 15<sup>th</sup>:** Bob Flanigan, 84, singer (The Four Freshmen) and musician. **June 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Ray Bryant, 79, jazz pianist, after long illness. **3<sup>rd</sup>:** Benny Spellman, 79, R&B singer, (Lipstick Traces) respiratory failure and Andrew Gold, 59, singer-songwriter ("Lonely Boy", "Thank You for Being a Friend"), heart attack.

**12<sup>th</sup>:** Carl Gardner, 83, founding member of The Coasters, congestive heart failure. **July 4<sup>th</sup>:** Jane Scott, 92, "World's Oldest Rock Critic", (Cleveland Plain Dealer).

**11<sup>th</sup>:** Rob Grill, 67, lead singer/songwriter, The Grass Roots, complications from a head injury. **23<sup>rd</sup>:** Amy Winehouse, 27, British singer-songwriter, accidental alcohol poisoning.

**24<sup>th</sup>:** Dan Peek, 60, lead singer of America died in his sleep. **29<sup>th</sup>:** Gene McDaniels, 76, country singer-songwriter, no cause given.

**August 10<sup>th</sup>:** Billy Grammer, 85, country singer (Gotta Travel On), oldest of 13 kids, long term illness.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:** Jerry Leiber, 78, songwriter (along with Mike Stoller), ("Stand By Me", "Hound Dog", "Jailhouse Rock", "Kansas City"), cardio-pulmonary failure and Nick Ashford, 70, R&B singer (Ashford & Simpson) and songwriter ("Ain't No Mountain High Enough"), throat cancer.

**September 20<sup>th</sup>:** Robert Whitaker, 71, British photographer, shot The Beatles' butcher album cover, cancer. **29<sup>th</sup>:** Sylvia Robinson, 75, (Mickey & Sylvia), music producer and record label executive, heart failure.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>:** Roger Williams, 87, pianist (Autumn Leaves), pancreatic cancer. **21<sup>st</sup>:** Freddie Ferrara, Doo-Wop singer (The Del-Satins, The Brooklyn Bridge), cardiac arrest.

**November 7<sup>th</sup>:** Andrea True, 68, adult film star and disco singer (More, More, More), heart failure. **December 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Howard Tate, 72, soul singer also performed with organist Bill Doggett, complications of multiple myeloma and leukemia.

**6<sup>th</sup>:** Dobie Gray, 71, (The In Crowd, Drift Away) long battle with cancer. **14<sup>th</sup>:** Billy Jo Spears, 74, country singer, cancer. **20<sup>th</sup>:** Sean Bonniwell, 71, guitarist, singer, The Music Machine (Talk, Talk). **25<sup>th</sup>:** Jim Sherwood, 69, member of the Mothers of Invention. **29<sup>th</sup>:** Robert Dickey (who was the first Bobby Purify, a cousin of James), 72, R&B singer (James & Bobby Purify), no cause given.

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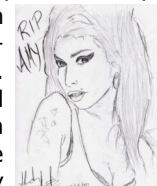
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# KEY NOTES

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FEBRUARY 2012  
ISSUE #189  
Inside...

- ♫ - The Boss with the sauce
- ♫ - Birthday Massacre CD
- ♫ - A Fond Farewell
- ♫ - Beach Boys Back and more!

## RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR



Congratulations to the 2012 officer team you elected to run your club. They include: **Dave Schmidt**, President; **Eddie Collins**, Vice President; **Erna Reinhart**, Secretary and **Charlie Reinhart**, Treasurer.

They are all committed to do the best they can for you, however, they can't do it all alone. Volunteer your time, expertise and knowledge. Please help them make our club and show even more effective.

The current appointed officers were reappointed for 2012. They include: **Steve Yohe**, Show Coordinator; **Bob "Will" Williams**, Site Coordinator; **Doug Smith**, Phone Reservations; **Phil Schwartz**, Special Projects Coordinator, **Ron Diehl**, Club Photographer, **B. Derek Shaw**, Newsletter and Communications and **Janet Ruhl**, Show Flyer Guru. These 11 people work tirelessly (and without pay) to bring you a great show each month. If you get a chance, thank them for their commitment to our club.

This team is not a closed group. We welcome anyone else who wants to roll up their sleeves and volunteer for your club, our club. If interested, let any of the folks mentioned above know about your desire to help. We'll put you to work.

If you operate a music store/mail order service, feel free to promote OUR show on your web site, e-mails and printed materials. Include flyers in orders you ship. Put a link on your website promoting the club's website: [www.recordcollectors.org](http://www.recordcollectors.org) Club and mobile DJs: please take show flyers to your gigs to help spread the word. If you are on-air talent at a radio station, please give our club and show a plug. **Everyone** is encouraged to take a quantity of the 2012 *Show Date Flyers* to place in your corner of the world. It's hard to imagine that after 32+ years, there are some who do not know about the show. Your help can help solve that problem. See Show Coordinator **Steve Yohe** at the club table or myself and we will arm you with an ample supply of flyers.

**The more we ALL promote OUR show, the more successful we ALL will be. That's the bottom line.**

*Derek*

**B. Derek Shaw**  
KEY-NOTES Editor  
& Communications  
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## VIEW FROM THE TOP

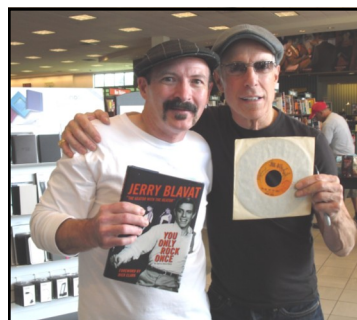


Welcome to 2012! We should make this the official "Year Of The Record" We have been blessed with some great shows the past few months with good crowd turnout. Let's hope it continues.

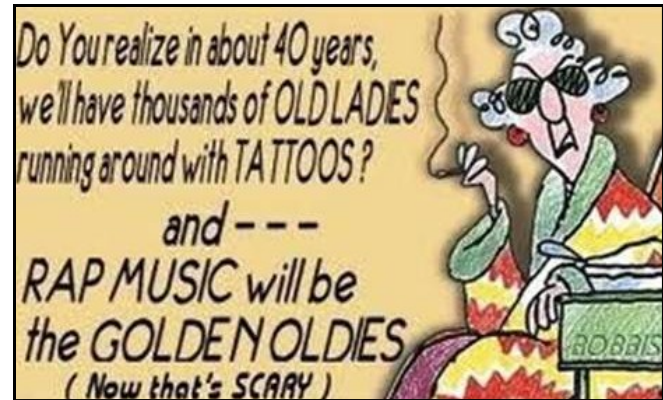
Welcome to all the officers and volunteers who help keep the club going. An extra special welcome to **Eddie Collins**, who takes over the Vice President spot. Please make **Eddie** feel welcome when you see him at an upcoming show!

The KRC is still in need of some assistance. If you might be interested in helping with some of the things that have to happen to keep the club operating smoothly, let one of the officers know of your interest.

**Dave Schmidt**  
2012 KRC President  
[NRCMusings@aol.com](mailto:NRCMusings@aol.com)



KRC's **Eddie Collins** chats with Jerry Blavat, about his book *You Only Rock Once*. This month, "Ed-A-Fonic" gives us the full scoop, on what really makes 'The Geator' tick, as he reviews Jerry's fascinating story that is really 'boss' and 'outta sight'!



## HOW TO REACH US...

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**KEYSTONE RECORD COLLECTORS**  
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P.O. Box 10532, Lancaster, PA 17605  
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## KRC in 2012

EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 3 PM SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
(EXCEPT APRIL 1ST AND MAY 5TH)

## THE CONTINENTAL INN

FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE, SO TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!  
ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS.  
BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS EVERY OTHER SHOW AT 3:30PM,  
(DURING THE MONTH THERE IS NO **KEY-NOTES**) PLAN TO BE THERE.

Good Timin' as The Beach Boys commemorate  
50th anniversary with 'reunion' tour & more!  
a report by **Eddie Collins**

Brian Wilson once penned the lyric, "Wouldn't it be nice if we were older, then we wouldn't have to wait so long." Unfortunately, many Beach Boys fans have gotten older, patiently waited and remained optimistic if a true 'reunion' would ever surface.

The quintet from Hawthorne, California that gave birth to a music genre known as the 'surf sound', are indeed reuniting this year with a 50-date tour to coincide with their silver anniversary. In 1962, a two sided hit "Surfin Safari"/"409" on Capitol Records, kick started it all.

Lineup for this tour, features original members Brian Wilson, Mike Love, Al Jardine, and Bruce Johnston, in addition to guitarist Dave Marks, who was with the group from 1962-63, appearing on their early recordings.

Over the years, we've seen various configurations of the group, of course Mike Love's 'official' Beach Boys, Al Jardine's Family and Friends, plus Brian Wilson, who finally embraced the music he created, in his solo concerts and various Beach Boys related projects.

What's interesting, with all the turmoil that's been documented, regarding their non "Good Vibrations" of lawsuits, strained relationships etc, The Beach Boys are willing to set it aside and recreate "Endless Harmony."

The icing on the cake, is the major surprise that the act is recording tracks for an album, which will be produced by Brian Wilson and Mike Love. Hopefully, we can all "Catch A Wave" as The Beach Boys "Do It Again."



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(Deadline for **KEY-NOTES#190** is **March 11<sup>th</sup>**)

Names in **bold** type are members of Keystone Record Collectors



Birthday? Happy, eh?  
The Birthday Massacre "Pins and Needles"  
A CD review by **Doug Smith**

A birthday. Supposed to be a happy occasion. But for a music group, if Massacre is the last part of your name, after Birthday, chances are the situation is-a bit complicated, at least.

Such is the case for Toronto's The Birthday Massacre with their latest (and fifth overall) long player, "Pins and Needles". Wiki states that The Birthday Massacre's (TBM) main musical style is Synthrock. I couldn't agree more. P&N is an almost relentless mix of the synth and percussion; and is rather loud. The only real respites come at the beginning and ending of tracks with fillers of dripping water, wind chimes, and paper crumpling (or is that crackling fire?).

This is not an easy album to get into. First, there is the volume. Then, there are no song choruses that are immediate hooks. The songs aren't danceable; much less very "foot-tap-able". And about subject matter - being "happy"? From the very first track, she's in the dark. In "Shallow Grave", she wears a dress like a body bag. Indeed, a video from earlier in TBM's career had a decapitation. Happy? Even just taking a gander at that CD cover image...

P&N does benefit from competent writing and female vocalist Chibi's (with two exceptions, TBM's members go by only nicknames) strong upper register vocals. TBM could be thought of as sort of a loud, boisterous offspring of Missing Persons. Chibi, though, does not have quite the helium factor of Dale Bozzio.

One more thought on "happy" subject matter. This is not doom metal; neither in attitude nor volume. But there is not much joy in TBM's world, either; and they certainly don't spare the decibels in making their case.

TBM does have this synth rock thing down for all of this release. The material is strong enough to the point where you don't necessarily think you're listening to variations on the same theme 11 times. One wonders, though, if P&N could have been even better with some additional variance. Quiet passages can have more emotional power than sheer volume. Varying song tempos can help break up the monotony. And there are five male TBM members with whom Chibi could sing.

**Summary.** Like loud synth rock? Really like it? Here's your disc. Of course there is the old axiom about variety...

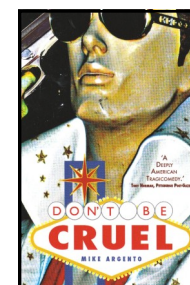
Rating: 6.5 (out of 10)



(l to r): Rhim, Rainbow, Chibi, Owen, Nate Minor and Michael Falcore.

## A pair of Book Reviews

*Don't Be Cruel* by Mike Argento  
A book review by **Steve Yohe**



Cleverly plotted, hilarious, ironic, irreverent, unapologetically profane - all these words describe *Don't Be Cruel*, the first novel by Mike Argento, a veteran newspaper columnist for the *York Daily Record*. It's a comic crime caper in the vein of Donald Westlake's Dortmund novels: nothing goes as planned for hit men Ed Smith and Shane Spew as they try in vain to carry out their assignment to kill strip club owner Walter Nunn. Fate intervenes with each attempt of the inept Spew, a dishonorably discharged Marine, to blow up the clueless Nunn.

The characters and tone are infused with the dark humor of Carl Hiaasen's novels, and the plot premise and development are reminiscent of Kurt Vonnegut at his absurdist best. Nunn has recently found comfort and peace from his formerly chaotic life in the First Church of Elvis, Scientist, brainchild of Papa, a low level mobster. After Nunn's conversion to Elvisology at the foot of the statue of Elvis on a golden toilet, Papa recruited Nunn as a figurehead partner in his club, the Happy Beaver, with the intention of collecting the insurance after Nunn's premature death.

Papa's life is complicated by the arrival of a feisty law student stripper, Kathy, who begins to advocate for workers' rights. Further complications ensue as each failed bombing attempt results in the unintentional death of such innocent and not-so-innocent bystanders as an AAA service man, an amorous UPS driver, and a gambling-addicted police detective.

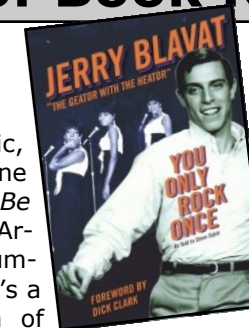
The novel is filled with such colorful characters as the ad-dled, loveable Grandma Spew; an Elvis impersonator; Traci with an I, Nunn's stripper girlfriend; a group of female investment bankers moonlighting as strippers; and Fat Sam, Papa's 450 pound enforcer - just to name a few.

The action is nonstop and moves from Pennsylvania to Graceland and back to PA. The point of view shifts seamlessly from character to character in real time with just enough flashbacks to keep the reader abreast of the characters' back stories.

Music collectors will enjoy the running jokes about Elvis lore and the records that the strippers dance to. Others will enjoy Ed Smith's recurring fascination with a radio UFO talk show. *Don't Be Cruel* is an entertaining read that will have you laughing out loud and marveling at the strange and ironic plot twists.



Author Mike Argento



Calling all 'Yon - Teens'... it's Jerry Blavat's  
*You Only Rock Once*  
A book review by **Eddie and Debbie Collins**

If Webster's dictionary defined the word 'geator', it would be termed as 'a person who is motivated', a relentless musical entrepreneur who can't stop rockin'...and of course, only one name would apply to this definition...Jerry Blavat. In his book "You Only Rock Once," the self proclaimed 'Geator with the heater and boss with the hot sauce', provides us with a fascinating insight into an exciting journey and incredible career of this legendary Philadelphia radio, television and music impresario.

The son of a Jewish father and Catholic mother, Blavat paints the picture of his early South Philly roots, watching his mother, aunt and uncles dancing to the sounds of big band swing records. By age ten, he develops a talent as a dancer and in 1953, at thirteen he becomes a regular on WFIL-TV's 'Bandstand', then hosted by Bob Horn. Eventually, this young kid with the uncanny ear, was predicting the hits, giving Horn tips on what records to play.

Blavat shares some interesting little known facts about himself. In the late 1950's, he was a road manager for Danny & The Juniors, served as a valet for comedian Don Rickles and even coined the catch phrase for the soft drink Mountain Dew, proclaiming "Yahoo, Mountain Dew...it's good for you!"

It was 1961, when Jerry arrived as a mover and shaker on the music scene, having immediate success running his own dances, then making the foray onto radio at WCAM in Camden NJ. While his radio show and dances gained popularity, much bigger things were ahead for 'the geator'. In 1965, Dick Clark and American Bandstand moved to the west coast, thus leaving the void for a teen oriented TV dance show...enter Jerry Blavat's 'DiscoPhonic Scene,' and later 'Jerry's Place.'

Jerry had something fresh to offer, as he discusses in *You Only Rock Once*, he was like one of the kids, dancing with his 'yon-teens' as he called them, and had a persona they could relate to. Berry Gordy cites Blavat in the book, as being the first to recognize Motown's artists and put them on the Philadelphia map. Jerry was always eager to give regional Pennsylvania acts a shot as well, such as Hazleton's 'Ognir & The Nite People,' Frackville's 'Jordan Brothers' and very notably 'The Magnificent Men' from York/Harrisburg.

The book is definitely a 'who's who' of name drops, as 'The Geator' certainly isn't afraid to let it all hang out, talking in detail about everyone he's been associated with over the years. In reading his tale, you get the full perspective of what really makes this man's clock keep on ticking. It's the passion for the sounds he believes in, that keeps his flame burning. Blavat, who in 1998 was inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame, said at a recent book signing event, "Music has no barriers...shows no color, no race...it doesn't matter if a record is an A-side, B-side,...just remember, keep music in your day as *You Only Rock Once!*"