PEOPLE

Cranberries' singer suffers through the stardom stage

POP'N ROCK
CHUCK DARROW

Anyone who thinks pop stardom is the key to happiness should consult **Dolores O'Riordan**, singer-songwriter of **the cranberries**, the Irish alterna-rock quartet that has emerged, in the two years since the release of the group's debut LP, *Everyone Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We* (Island), as one of modern music's leading lights.

Even though that album was a breakthrough in every sense of the word, O'Riordan hardly felt like she was on top of the world.

"I couldn't really enjoy the success of the first album, because while it was happening, I was having quite a bad time personally," says O'Riordan, who on Tuesday leads her group onto the stage of the Blockbuster-Sony Music Entertainment Centre At the Waterfront.

"I was really unhappy for a long time."

That unhappiness is revealed in her songs on *No Need to Argue*, the unit's even-more-successful sophomore effort.

"I think these songs have a strong confrontational feeling to them," she says of such numbers as *Zombie* and *Ode to My Family*.

"A lot went down with the band since the first album and a lot went down for me personally, and I think that's reflected in these songs.

"Those songs come out of a period in my life that I'd like to forget, but I don't mind singing about it."

Nor does she particularly care for the byproducts of pop fame. She says a lot of what appears on *No Need to Argue* was composed as a way to escape the rigors of stardom.

"It was really nice that after a gig, in the middle of all the chaos, I'd be away in a corner with a guitar, writing about what I was feeling.

"Being famous and having people screaming at you doesn't make me happy, but writing a song does."

Opening the concert are **Toad the Wet Sprocket** and **Willy Porter**. Show time is 7:30 p.m. Admission is $25 (reserved) and $17.50 (lawn). To order tickets, call 800-833-0080.

Getting involved

For another recently minted front-line star, multi-Grammy winner **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, a high public profile means a chance to help other people.

Carpenter, who headlines tonight at the Mann Music Center, has begun using her status to advance a handful of political causes. For instance, the liner notes for *Stones In the Road* (Columbia) include a pitch for House of Ruth, a Washington, D.C., battered women's shelter.

"When I was in my 20s, the idea of being part of my community and helping in that regard — of merging what you do with your community — it's as if I was kind of asleep about it," she told Gannett News Service.

"I don't think that, as a rule, I'm a writer of topical music. But it's important to get out there and lend (yourself) to whatever you can lend to. I came late to that, but now that I'm there it's not something that I want to let go of.

"It's enriched my life in ways that I can't let go of."

Opening for Carpenter are **The Mavericks**. Show time is 8 p.m. Admission is $19.50 (reserved) and $13.50 (lawn). To order tickets, call 665-2500.

Wildwood rock

The annual Wildwood Rock & Music Expo has become a must for fans and collectors alike. This year's event is set for Saturday and Sunday at the Wildwood Convention Center on the Boardwalk at Burk Avenue.

Special guests include Merchantville-born rock historian **Damian C**, who'll be signing copies of his new book, *Rock-N-Roll Pop Music Quizzes*, and metal-mongers **Sinister Shame**.

Show times are noon to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is $3 (kids under 10 get in free). For more information, call 448-7585.

Chuck Darrow covers pop music for the *Courier-Post*. He can be reached at 486-2442 or by fax at 663-2831.

Smoking on big screen

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
Syndicated columnist

DEAR ABBY: Recently, I took my grandchildren to see the movie *Casper*. We loved the show, but I was appalled to see the female character smoking!

I also went to see *The Bridges of Madison County*, which I didn't care for, but again, I was annoyed to see the lead character smoking!

Why on earth are they promoting smoking when we have finally educated people to understand the disastrous consequences of smoking? — A.B. AVERY

DEAR A.B. AVERY: I can't speak for *Casper*, but *The Bridges of Madison County* depicts life in a small town at least 40 years ago. In those days, we were not aware that cigarette smoking was a killer.

DEAR ABBY: My mother recently sold her home in one state and moved to a retirement center in another. When I asked her how things were going, she said that her apartment was very comfortable, but she'd have to make friends outside the center.

Why? Because the other residents "only want to talk about their ailments."

Will you please say a few words in your column about how to steer conversations to more interesting and stimulating topics? — WORRIED ABOUT MOM IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WORRIED: When people are out of the mainstream, it's not unusual for their focus to narrow until there's little to stimulate them besides their aches and pains.

DEAR ABBY

Changing the subject is as easy as mentioning something your mother read in the newspaper, saw on television or was told. Or, she can ask a question that has nothing to do with health or present circumstances.

There must be others besides your mother in the retirement center who are able to socialize beyond its walls — and who crave intellectual stimulation and conversation beyond the level of complaining about their ailments.

Of course, there are always some who think that the question "How are you?" is meant literally — and instead of giving the most appropriate response, which is, "I'm fine, thank you," proceed with delivering an organ recital. Ella Wheeler Wilcox once wrote a wonderful poem on this subject:

TALK HEALTH
Talk health. That dreary never-ending tale
Of mortal maladies is worn and stale;
You cannot charm or interest or please
By harping on that minor chord, disease.
So, say that you are well and all is well with you
And God shall hear your words and make them true.

Questions and comments may be sent to Dear Abby in care of: Features Department, Courier-Post, P.O. Box 5300, Cherry Hill 08034.

Universal Press Syndicate

NAMES & FACES

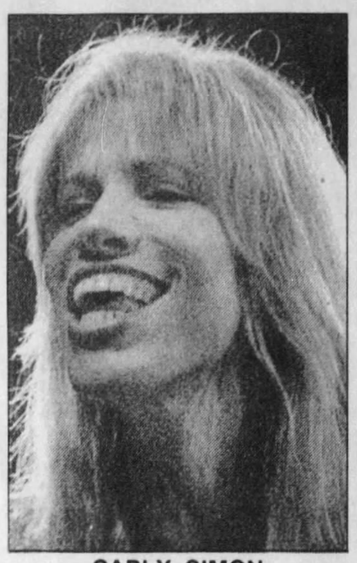
Simon, Taylor to perform benefit

Talk about Anticipation: Fans bought all 10,000 tickets to a **Carly Simon** and **James Taylor** concert in less than an hour.

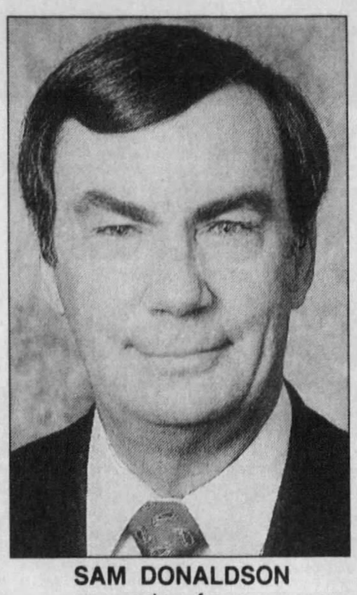
Tickets for the Aug. 30 benefit on Martha's Vineyard, Mass., were gone by 9 a.m. Tuesday, said Simon's publicist, **Jill Siegel**. They sold for $20, $30 and $100. Most tickets were sold by telephone.

The concert, called Livestock '95, will benefit the 136-year-old Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society. Proceeds will go toward the mortgage for its new agricultural hall, built this year. Simon and Tayor are both longtime residents of the once-quaint, now star-studded island.

They last gave a joint concert in 1979, two years before their divorce. Simon is on her first concert tour in 15 years.



CARLY SIMON
. . . Vineyard concert



SAM DONALDSON
. . . recovering from surgery

Model **Elizabeth Hurley** says she was "miserable as sin" attending the opening of boyfriend **Hugh Grant**'s new movie, *Nine Months*, but explains, "I don't think you should hit someone when they're down."

Grant was down, of course, following his arrest for consorting with a prostitute. So Hurley agreed to attend the Hollywood opening with him last month.

In an interview with **Barbara Walters** to be broadcast on ABC's *20/20* program Friday, Hurley said she learned of Grant's arrest from her agent, seconds before she spoke to the actor himself on the phone.

"I felt like I'd been shot," she said. "I ran out, I think I was — I think I was in shock."

She says she has no plans to marry Grant: "There's never been a time in my life when I've felt less inclined to get married, so — you know, that doesn't go down too well."

Word from the Far East is that **Kevin Costner** is one happy Mariner, with *Waterworld* getting better reviews and box office than many predicted. Costner is working his gills off for those all-important foreign audiences: He's currently promoting the film in Japan, Australia and Mexico.

And what does *Waterworld* director **Kevin Reynolds** think of the film as re-edited by ex-pal Costner? Reynolds tentatively agreed to call *USA TODAY* with his impressions after seeing it opening night, but never did.

Cher wants it known that her *Sanctuary* catalog is doing fine, thank you. So is she, having a jolly time living in a converted rum warehouse while making an album in London and awaiting her new movie, *Faithful*.

On the phone from England, Cher denied a report her catalog, out last fall, was failing. She has a new fall-holiday issue due Oct. 7 and says she hasn't lost any of her $2 million investment. *Sanctuary* makes home furnishings and accessories.

Offscreen, the 49-year-old actress admits, "I just haven't had a boyfriend in forever. It's not like me to go this long, but I haven't found anybody I liked. Guys are kind of frightened of me — but not when they get to know me."

Cher says son **Elijah**, 19, is making demo records. And she's now comfortable talking about daughter **Chastity**'s homosexuality.

"I'm absolutely fine with it, I'm proud of her," Cher says. "She writes for *The Advocate* all the time. I said to her, I didn't know I was raising a gay activist, but I guess that's what's supposed to be."

Even from his hospital bed, Chicago Bears coach **Mike Ditka** can't stop thinking about the game. His golf game, that is.

Ditka underwent surgery Tuesday to repair part of the artificial right hip he received in 1984. He had his left hip replaced in 1992.

Jan Shulman, spokeswoman for Ditka's surgeon, **Dr. Mitchell Sheinkop**, would not release Ditka's condition. But he said the former football coach has an eye on getting back to his golf game.

"The coach told me then that he'd wait to have the surgery until it affected his golf game," Sheinkop said. "We scheduled surgery now because his golf handicap increased from one to eight and medication can no longer control his pain."

ABC News correspondent **Sam Donaldson** is on the mend after surgery to remove cancer from lymph nodes in his right groin.

"He tolerated the surgery well and is recovering without problems," his surgeon, **Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg**, said following the operation.

Donaldson will be in the hospital at the National Institutes of Health for about a week, said Rosenberg, chief of surgery at the National Cancer Institute. Doctors plan no further treatment for now but will follow his condition closely.

Born on this date

Broadway composer **Richard Adler** ("Damn Yankees") is 74. Author **Leon Uris** is 71. Singer **Tony Bennett** is 69. Actor **Martin Sheen** is 55. Movie director **John Landis** is 45.

BRIDGE

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 6 2
♥ A K Q
♦ J 3 2
♣ K 8 7 6 5

WEST
♠ J 7 3
♥ —
♦ Q 4
♣ A Q J 10 9 4 3 2

EAST
♠ A 5 4
♥ 10 9 8 7 5 4 3 2
♦ A 5
♣ —

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 9 8
♥ J 6
♦ K 10 9 8 7 6
♣ —

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
3 ♣	Dble	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead — ace of clubs.

Dear Mr. Becker: I am taking the liberty of writing to you even though I am primarily a devotee and practitioner of the ancient and honorable game of Gin Rummy, in which game I can state with all modesty that there is no one who can hold a candle to me.

I realize, of course, that you write only about bridge, and that you may know nothing and care even less about gin, but I had an experience on the accompanying bridge hand which might be of interest to you.

As you can see from the bidding (I was South), I am no greenhorn at the game, and my play, I may add, also leaves little to be desired. In fact, if I ever decided to put my mind to the game, there is little doubt that you would soon be out of a job.

I was merely wondering — and that is why I am writing you — whether it is possible that I had overlooked any angle in this hand where I went down at three notrump.

West led the A-Q of clubs and I would have had a very easy time making three notrump except that the player on my right threw away the ace of diamonds and ace of spades on the first two tricks!

No matter how I figure it, I don't see how I can now make this hand. If East had discarded just one ace, I would have gotten home with nine tricks, but two of them were just too much for me. Is there anything I could have done to make the hand? Sincerely yours, Joe Blow.

Dear Mr. Blow: Not a thing, You were up against superhuman defense. Apparently East is also a gin player. I understand that in gin an ace is the lowest card in the deck, so I guess East was throwing away his low cards in order to retain his other combinations.

Once he did this, there was nothing you could do to alter the outcome. Cordially yours, SB.

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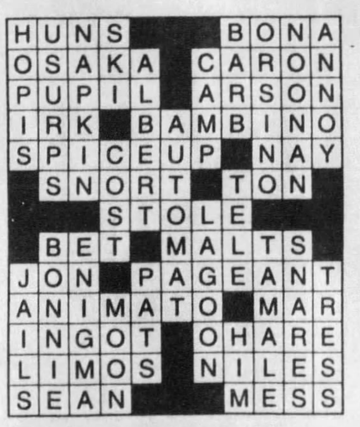
CROSSWORD

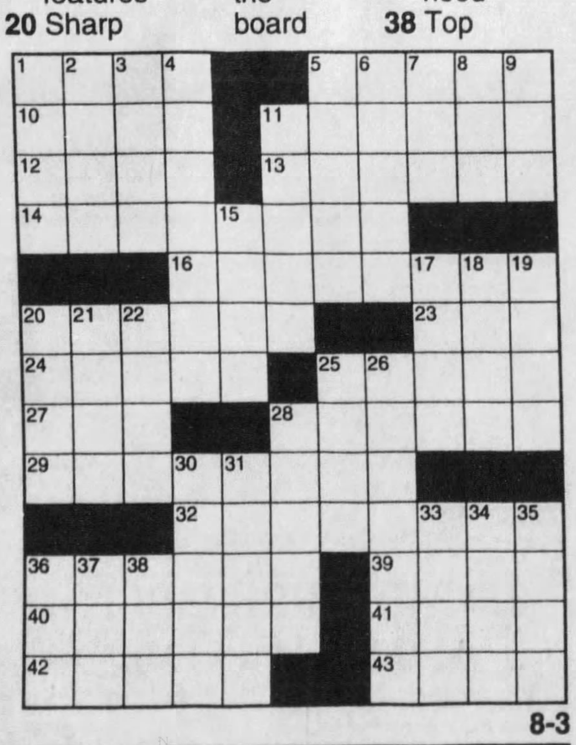
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Headliner
5 Sum
10 Vagrant
11 So far
12 Pitcher Hershiser
13 Made amends
14 Roper, for one
16 Truck driver
20 Mountaineering spikes
23 Knot-tying oath
24 Skilled
25 Shakespeare's Kate
27 Formerly named
28 Martin and Charlie
29 Player
32 Old car
36 Job ad datum
39 Fabled race loser
40 Has life
41 Buffalo's lake
42 Gives over
43 Reb's foe

DOWN
1 Go on a spree
2 Matador's opponent
3 Cain's brother
4 Desk type
5 Tribal symbol
6 Scents
7 Sandy color
8 Had a bite
9 Conducted
11 British farewells
15 Transmitted
17 Grow weary
18 Utopia
19 Stadium features
20 Sharp pain
21 Notion
22 Abound
25 Lose
26 Chocolatier Milton
28 Remains
30 Clear the board
31 Classifies
33 Scarlett's home
34 Actress Moran
35 Stink
36 Jiffy
37 Woodsman's need
38 Top



Yesterday's Answer



8-3

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone / rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

HOROSCOPE

By JOYCE JILLSON
Syndicated Columnist

Steamy passion simmers as the moon enters Scorpio's sexy domain. Fickle flirtations flop — couples crave deep mutual understanding and probe to discover one another's secret emotional needs. A spending spree with pals turns extravagant as the moon and Venus (indulgence) interact — watch the bottom line. Review short-term projects, and fine-tune details as the moon approaches its second quarter tonight.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

Leo's creative fires roar. Your key months for romance are August, November, December and March. A super-active holiday season is on the way — dispatch time-eating obligations well before the festivities begin. By January, the emphasis shifts to the job sector. Academic commitment is required for you to get ahead. Travel in April, and socialize in June. Your lucky numbers are 5 and 17.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're in high gear. Dispatch family chores early — you'll make quick progress on an independent project during the afternoon. An older relative calls. Your surging vitality wakes up romance tonight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Financial matters are in sharp focus. A business trip links profit, pleasure and luck but may strain relations at home. Play fair — loved ones need your love and care. An impromptu potluck at your place initiates a social trend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A co-worker turns into a friend. Sharing an assignment or job laughs forges lighthearted after-hours social bonds — dates join the merriment for zesty, flirtatious fun. An evolving partnership turns hugely productive.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Snap up extra work — an income surplus gives you a chance to splurge on yourself. Escape to a cozy bed-and-breakfast out of town. Enlarge your social circle. You and your chums team up. Profits are ahead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's an action-packed day — pals are bursting with invitations and great news. At work, receiving social calls makes you appear lax. Don't stir co-worker resentments — attend to personal matters on breaks.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A charitable venture brims with satisfaction and fun. Joining a large professional group creates a hot chance for you to advance your information-related skills. Watch for a lucky contact at a meeting today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A buoyant atmosphere spreads excitement on the social scene and sparks weekend plans. In the works are local trips, gallery jaunts and love-spangled dates. Your vivid imagination spawns novel design ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Fast-breaking investment news keeps you riveted to the telephone or computer screen. Stay tightly tuned. A quick, smart move nets you a bundle of cash. Tonight, you and your mate wrangle over a conflict in social plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Seize control of your finances — mismanagement can sink your long-range dreams. Play it safe — place your fiscal cares in the hands of a qualified pro. At home, friction with your mate brings issue to light.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Dealings with large organizations offer behind-the-scenes perks. Solo projects need extra care. Possible pitfalls are your aloofness or your mania to seize total control.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Odd complexities give a love affair an intriguing twist. A third party, ex-spouse or secret competitor is involved — expect peculiar entanglements of all kinds. Remember, your needs come first.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your creative potential soars. Join forces with a friend to implement your ambitious dream. Hot areas to develop are teaching, children's concerns and local sports. At work, independent thought and action serve you best.

Creator's Syndicate

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