

Dear Alan,

Hi. For this week -- please check immediately on an interview with Tyrone Davis. Tom is checking out here, ~~xx~~ just in case. But this is a hot record, and we don't have much of anything on the guy. Any clippings' you ~~g~~ can get would be very helpful.

Also, please get some~~x~~ sort of updated stuff on Salsoul Orchestra... whatever is available. Check into the possibility of another Frampton interview -- we're nearly out of everything on him and the album!

We're stumped on Rod Stewart out here. He's in England indefinitely ... there's not much of any substance from his record company....and he's got a big hit. Would you check with Warner Brothers in the East, or if nothing there, maybe reader's guide on your next library run -- clippings would help a lot here. We just don't have anything on the guy.

Tom says Paul Ahern ~~xxxx~~ won't be back in town till this coming Tuesday...so we don't have anything happening yet with Boston. In the meantime, keep trying your Boston contacts out there. Another hot group we have nothing whatever to say about.

Ditto the ~~x~~ Commodores. Please hurry and set up another interview with a different member of the group. We need material on them.

Have you found any "Grim Reaper" stuff yet for Blue Oyster Cult? Check a poem by Longfellow as a start.

If you have any~~xxx~~ thoughts for a possible Steve Miller hook...if he hits Number One this week...please send it along. We are desperate for astory on the guy, particularly if he does hit Number One.

Check with RSO in the East on Yvonne Elliman (Tom is checking here as well), and Clapton. Also, please find out specifically who is singing on this Clapton single. Was this song written ~~x~~ especially for Yvonne by the Bee Gees, or how did she come by it.

Okay, another major thing to check out -- Casey balked at the Bee Gees story, in the studio, about their having had more of their songs recorded by ~~x~~ other artists than any other group ~~x~~ except the Beatles. He wants to quote an authoritative source...we need back-up and justification. Can you get that as soon as possible? Someone at BMI...or some other reputable institution that would have reason to know.

Tom will be interviewing Leo Sayer on Wednesday...please check on a possible Gladys Knight interview as she's based in the East.

And if~~xxx~~ you can get the Apollo feature done that would be super. Also, I'm ready for the next radio feature. Or -- how about calling Columbia and...was it RCA?....for the first single and first album feature? Check with me if you're not- sure what we're going for here.

And that's it. By the way, your ~~x~~ phone bill was lower this month -- good work. Let's keep working on moving it further and further down.

September 21, 1976

758-8226
752-0160
Dear Alan:

Just to catch up on some old biz, first -- I'm not sure if I phoned this info to you last week or not. Sandy needs lyrics for the full Ritchie Family song (album version). I have a number for the new TK office in New York for you to call -- (212) 752-7616. The contacts there are Ray Caviano and Norman Rueben. Please do that right away. Also, Sandy had heard that Thom Bell has moved to Washington state. Is that true, and if so what's the contact number, etc.? Along the same lines -- while you're trying to set up stuff on the O'Jays and Spinners....please remember to request lyrics from them to be sent directly here.

Now, a general request for the future: in order to expedite things, and keep everything as neatly coordinated as possible...I want to get you set up on a schedule very similar to ours. As the East Coast researcher, we should have a certain routine established with you that we can take for granted and not have to set up each week, etc.

So, from now on..let's do this. Assume that you are responsible for gathering the initial research and background info on everyone on the eastern half of the country as soon as it's feasible to do so. That should be determined this way: If the act is well-known (and hasn't been on for a while, necessitating the acquisition of fresh, updated material)...or if it is an unknown act and it/they have moved well up the chart and are looking like imminent Top 40 candidates. Generally speaking, we begin tracking artists when they reach the 70s...unless it seems fairly certain they will make the 40, even when they're in the 80s. Certainly you should begin calling and requesting info when they hit the 70s. Best policy is to lump all artists into record company categories and try to cover as many bases with one call as possible.

If you do your first please-send-us-bios-and-any-other-available-print-info call when the act is in the 70s...we should have enough info in advance to tell us who they are, and to give us an idea on whether they're worth pursuing further later on. Then, I can give you specific interview assignments by mail as they seem necessary. Please have companies send us the print info to the office address; that way we get it more rapidly. When you call for info, if an artist seems really hot -- try to get basic background/salmon info over the phone, then just jot it down and send it to me in that week's mailing. That will cover us for the initial thing on the show just in case.

Other updates: Tom is supposed to be interviewing Kiss this week, so drop the whole affair until further word from me. Also, he will be interviewing Flash Cadillac. And he thinks he will be getting an interview with Abba! * I'll keep you posted on that....

Keep pursuing Lightfoot and Eric Carmen. We need Carmen stuff in a hurry. Also, be persistent with the Spinners and the O'Jays...we really need stuff on them. With the O'Jays...try to get them to explain how they feel they are just the 'messengers' for Gamble and Huff. Good quotes will play nicely into this current record, and they've said it before.

I need another Blue Oyster Cult story....I don't think we'll be able to use the electrocution story after all -- Peter * insists it was improper ~~wiring and not~~ wiring and not the rain causing the shocks. It's more complicated than that, but I'm afraid we're losing the hook.

October 1, 1976

Dear Alan:

Hi. If you're ready and armed for this week's stack-of-stuff, here we go!

Have you got an interview yet with Boston? These guys are hot, so we should put a rush on getting to them. If you have an interview already, please do a story if there is a hook.

Barry Manilow is another interview to pursue tenaciously. We are o-u-t of stuff on this guy, and we really need something.

Norman Connors is next; I believe you said you had an interview with him, so please do a story if you've got one.

Commodores are another hot act to pursue.

You said you had an interview scheduled with the Spinners -- please do a story if you've got one.

How about the Ritchie Family? Casey still hasn't bought any of the hooks we've tried so far on your original story. We're still trying, but if you can come up with something else in the interim it would be great. How about something on one of the producers? Anything interesting or unusual there?

For the future, keep working on the Bee Gees. I've got a story for this week, but they'll be on the chart for a while.

Gordon Lightfoot: I want to do something on his success in Canada. First, idea is to determine if he's the most successful male star, or most successful recording act period, or whatever, in Canada. Then, find out what his chart record is there: how many #1s, Top Tens, total chart records, etc. Please check this out and mail/phone it to me as soon as possible. Preferably through the mail, or during our Monday night rendezvous if you've got it this week.

Do you have another Blue Oyster Cult story for me? We can use that this week. Also, your Hall and Oates story...you said you had another one from the interview. Let's do that.

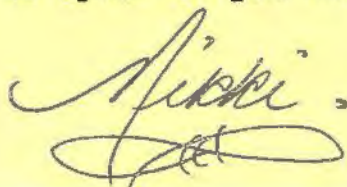
Sore subject, but how about Orleans? Any response? I hope we can do that story before this starts plummeting.

Also, please try to send me the Apollo story as soon as possible.

Ditto on any information you've been able to gather on Jackie Wilson, the fund-raising concert, an update on his condition, etc.

And that's it for now!

Thanks, and I'll speak to you Monday.



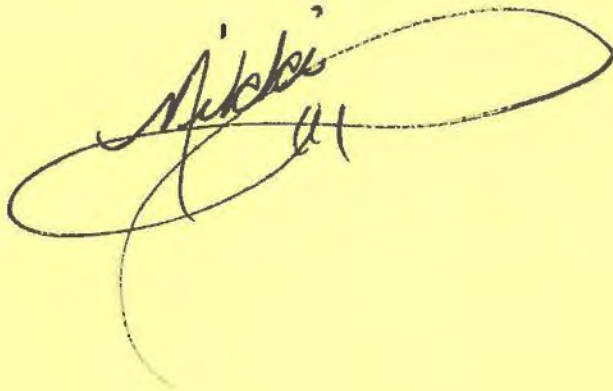
10/17/76

ALAN:

I've done a major staff reorganization trip...mostly indicating specific overall assignments for each week. This follows a meeting we had with TR, Casey, Don and full staff last Friday. Basically, the enclosed package includes lists of what to do each week, what will be expected of each person, lists of subjects for features to be pursued, a complete definitive list of whatever happened to possibilities, and so forth.

Please check with me before embarking on any of these.

And I will be in touch shortly with this week's craziness!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nikki", with a large, sweeping loop extending from the end of the name.