

BUT

held at the Watergate, and J.B. told us it was the biggest thing to happen there since the...well, you remember, right? A cake, emblazoned with a frosty reproduction of the Look Out for #1 album cover, celebrated the fact that the Brothers had just hit the million-unit mark. The rest of the week was taken up by Armatrading's run at the Cellar Door, during which the appreciative full-house crowds were oft inspired to sing along with Joan during certain memorable choruses. Hey, J.B., take a couple of days off, man. Is there an ocean near Washington?

*BINARY FRAMPTON: Lest you figured the Frampton Comes Alive Fenomenon was exclusively domestic, the album has just been proclaimed gold in Holland. Meanwhile, back in the U.S. of A., the numbers continue to be astronomical and the charts continue to reflect the situation, which causes us to offer (in the spirit of back-to-school) a hard-rock/new-math equation: Frampton Comes Alive = 1 1.

*TSK-TSK FROM GREECE: A&M's Greek affiliate recently requested the much-in-demand TUBES live promo videotape. Our conscientious international department shipped the tape to Athens, only to have it returned with the explanation that it was a bit too... well, racy...for Greek viewers. The ongoing Tubes World Tour, by the way, has not yet touched down anywhere in the Greek market.

*MORE VIDEO NEWS: PETER ALLEN has taped a Merv Griffin Show (which may well air on the 21st of this month) and CHUCK MANGIONE--along with brother CAP MANGIONE, ESTHER SATTERFIELD and a host of accompanists--has just done a segment for an upcoming Don Kirshner's rock Concert.

*URGENT PROGRAMMING NOTE: Do not--repeat--do not under any conditions miss "Hard Rain," the Dylan TV special, which NBC is airing Tuesday (the 14th) at 10. Surrounded by such legendary cohorts as JOAN BAEZ, Roger McGuinn, Mick Ronson, and Rockin' Rob Stoner, Dylan blazes through the hour as if he were out to break the sound barrier. The intensity of the performance has been brilliantly captured by the pioneering TVTV video team. Check those tight face shots on Dylan and Baez during "Blowin' In The Wind." You've never heard it--or seen it--like this before. Whew!

*RICH COVERS GINO: Arizona freelancer Bob Henschen dropped "Bullets" a line the other day to point out that Speak No Evil, Buddy Rich's new RCA elpee, climaxes with a GINO VANNELLI medley, "Storm at Sunup"/"Love Me Now." Unsolicitously, Henschen adds that the Vannelli track is the best thing on the album. Keep them cards'n'letters comin' in, tastemakers.

*NOTABLE QUOTES:

A) An earnest appraisal from the U.K.: "Oh yes! What with Charlie Haden's peach of an album imminent, and this, the fourth and best record from the Revolutionary Ensemble, already in the shops, A&M's Horizon series is shaping up better than any of us had dared hope...Anyhow--the Revolutionary Ensemble, in case you've been sleeping, is, with the Art Ensemble Of Chicago, the quintessential band in the new black music, and has, with its unique approach to written and free music, redefined the ground rules for improvising in the jazz tradition...That old reviewer's cliché about hearing new things each time one plays the record has never seemed more apposite... Records with the integrity of The People's Republic come this way only rarely. Don't let it pass you by."

--Melody Maker

(more)

BULLETS

8) An impassioned but practical appeal to the record companies from one of New England's leading press-party populists: "...Big Spread rock'n'roll press parties were virtually a way of life for those of us even vaguely connected with the music industry. But, alas and alack, the record companies began cutting back on these wing-dings about three years ago, with the result that a lot of scribes, deejays, photographers, record shop clerks and other grafters have had to alter their diets from shrimp and Swiss cheese morsels to Tender Vittles and beans. Life, as Jeremiah V. Murphy has mentioned on more than one occasion, can be unfair...Speaking personally, I think the time has come for the record people to consider passing out promotional three-piece chalk-stripe suits from Brooks and, for the distaff side, Halston copies. We are, after all, getting a bit long in the tooth to be traipsing around in T-shirts. Ultimately, a suit is a gift that keeps on giving..." --James Isaacs, "Cellars by Starlight," Boston Phoenix

Thanks for the suggestion, Jimmy. But have you noticed what we long-toothed "record people" have been wearing of late? By the way, do you take L, M, S, or BS?

*VERY LATE FLASH: At the Bottom Line near the bottom of the Big Apple, a bill composed of our very own RICHIE HAVENS and JOAN ARMATRADING has turned an eight-show stand into a complete sellout. The Morning After Thursday's opening-night show, Dave Herman played an entire side of Richie's brand-new The End of the Beginning, at the same time describing the show he'd seen just hours before as one of the best he'd ever witnessed. And Dave's seen a bunch of 'em, folks.

*PROOFREADING POP QUIZ: Try to find the two typos (obviously placed intentionally to tie in with this "Bullet") in the recently composed and typeset bio on the Ozark Mountain Daredevils. You'll find it in the press kit that accompanies our recent mailing of the 'Devils' new elpee, Men From Earth. (Hint: one of these typos has something to do with a foreign country, and the other puts a new wrinkle on a vintage cliché). Entrants who correctly identify both typos will be awarded a revised bio--and if you happen to find more than two, please call collect at once.