Written by John James Tuesday, 17 July 2001 18:00

- This Tuesday brings the long-awaited release of Colonel Les Claypool's Fearless Flying Frog Brigade and its new Live Frogs: Set Two. The CD is hot on the tails of the April release of Live Frogs: Set One, and this one dives straight into the heart of the sun. Strap on your Bic-flickin', frog-lickin', cerebellum-drippin' chrome aviator frames, and face the strain, my friends. This one features the Primus wunderkind bassist and friends flying their freak flags high, with a squealing, snarling cover of the entire Animals album by Pink Floyd. Recorded this past October in San Francisco's Great American Music Hall, the stellar cast features Jay Lane of Rat Dog on drums, Skerik of Critters Buggin' on saxophone, and Sausage's Todd Huth on guitar. Simply crackling in its intensity, this one gets a healthy "thumbs up" for the Pink Floyd fan or current faithful of today's post-Dead wandering tribe. The 1977 Pink Floyd masterpiece featured tracks such as "Pigs on the Wing," "Sheep" and "Dogs," and it's a wonderful choice for a tribute: It sounds great live, driving and leaning within the waves of magical guitar and rhythm-section interplay. This set bears the imprint of Prawn Song – Claypool's personal boutique label – and salutes this modern band of gypsies as they trek cross-country this summer with Phil Lesh and the String Cheese Incident. Go get slimy.
- Okay, I guess everyone has a celebrity sighting or two, maybe at the airport or backstage at a concert. And sure, living in New York or L.A. would certainly increase your chances of rubbing hips with the famous, but add to that being a record-label promotions manager, rock-music publicist, or MTV insider. Now those folks must have the best dinner-time stories. So, mix some rock-insider corner-stall confessions with our reality-TV tell-all consciousness and what have ya got? Bears do it, bees do it, and I guess so does Mick Jagger. Everybody poops. Musically obsessed peeping Toms must bookmark the Web site Famous People You've Met in the Bathroom at (http://www.velvetrope.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/005077.html), a highly entertaining ongoing thread of The Velvet Rope, a collection of rants posted by anonymous figures within the corporate record industry. Take a break with your PC sometime and indulge yourself in some guilty pleasure at this dishy hoot.
- Three cheers for the Liverpool, England, airport's decision to rename itself after one of its greatest sons, John Lennon. After the completion of a new terminal next year, the airport will become Liverpool John Lennon Airport. I rather like that.
- Roadrunner Records' breakthrough act Spine Shank is re-releasing its Height of Callousness CD this Tuesday in special Digipak packaging. Originally released last year, the new edition features four previously unreleased tracks, two CD-ROM videos, and all-new cover art. Look for the band on the Ozzfest 2001 this summer.
- The artists and musicians who created the fantastic O Brother, Where Art Thou? soundtrack are spotlighted in this Tuesday's release of Down from the Mountain on the Lost Highway Records label. The CD captures a magic moment in May of last year, when filmmakers Joel and Ethan Cohen hired documentary filmmaker D.A. Pennebaker to record a live get-together of the artists involved with the film's musical canvas. Recorded in Nashville's historic Ryman Auditorium, the list of performers is amazing, with The Cox Family, John Hartford, Alison Krauss & Union Station, Emmylou Harris, and Gillian Welch with David Rawlings. Other roots-music hunger can be sated with Vanguard Records' recent original motion picture soundtrack to Songcatcher, an Appalachian back-porch collection of female stars covering traditional folk

Written by John James Tuesday, 17 July 2001 18:00

ballads. The guest-vocalist list is a who's who, with Dolly Parton, Patty Loveless, Maria McKee, Iris Dement, Hazel Dickins, and Emmy Rosen. The film is set in 1907 and tells the story of a music scholar who ventures deep into the history of traditional American folk music, a blending of Scottish and Irish ballads that became country music's foundation. A recommended answer to that lonesome call from back home.

Television Alert:

The Tonight Show with Jay Leno welcomes Melissa Etheridge tonight, Lyle Lovett and Henry Rollins on Thursday, Craig David on Friday, 'N Sync on Monday and Mary Chapin Carpenter on Tuesday; The Late Show with David Letterman hosts Youssou N' Dour tonight, Ani DiFranco on Thursday, and Widespread Panic on Monday; Late Night with Conan O'Brien features former Clash statesman Joe Strummer on Tuesday overnight; and Saturday Night Live's musical guest this weekend is Jay-Z.

New Releases Coming Tuesday, July 24:

... and like the winds, young grasshopper, are subject to change.

Alice in Chains – Greatest Hits (Columbia)

Armored Saint – Nod to the Old School (Metal Blade) collection of new tracks, rarities, and demos

Laurent Brodel – Weld (Tone Casualties) mixing free-form jazz with 1970s German and 1990s British electronica influences

Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown – Back to Bogalusa (Blue Thumb)

Butterfly Jones – Napalm Springs (Vanguard)

Cake – Comfort Eagle (Columbia) featuring the single "Short Skirt/Long Jacket"

Capitol Eye – Mood Swingz (77/Renegade) featuring Opie Ortiz of the Long Beach Dub Allstars on a low-rider version of Sly Stone's "If You Want Me to Stay"

Darwin's Waiting Room – Orphan (Hollywood) on tour now with Unloco and Simon Says

Drowningman – Still Loves You (Equal Vision) five-track CD EP

Eve To Adam – Auburn Slip (Mikendra)

Fantomas – Fantomas (Ipecac) featuring Mike Patton and Trevor Dunn of Mr. Bungle, Dave Lonbardo of Slayer, and Buzz Osbourne of the Melvins

Fluke – Progressive History X (Astralwerks) rare tracks from early records

Written by John James Tuesday, 17 July 2001 18:00

The Flying Dutchman – Pathfinder (Tone Casualties) ambient trip hop from Germany

Good Riddance – Exposed! 1994–1999 (Fat Wreck Chords) VHS video

High Standard – Love Is a Battlefield (Fat Wreck Chords) four-track CD EP featuring the group's romp on the classic "Can't Help Falling in Love"

Husking Bee – 4 Color Problem (Doghouse) video-enhanced CD from this Tokyo punk act

The Isley Brothers – Eternal (Dreamworks) featuring Ronald Isley (a.k.a. Mr. Biggs) and guest vocalists Jill Scott and Chante Moore

Jimmy Eat World – Bleed American (Dreamworks)

Leonardo: The Absolute Man – original cast recording (Magna Carta) rock-based musical drama featuring members of Dream Theater, Kansas, and Under the Sun

Pep Love – Ascension (Hiero Imperium) new solo album from the Hieroglyphics crewmember

Maxwell – Now (Columbia)

My Hotel Year – The Composition of Ending & Phrasing (Beyond)

'N Sync – Celebrity (Jive)

Neutral Milk Hotel – Everything Is (Orange Twin)

Shaquille O'Neal – Presents His Superfriendz (Trauma)

Original Sin – original motion picture soundtrack (Gold Circle) score by Terence Blanchard

Rennie Pilgrem – Presents TCR 50 (Streetbeat) two CDs from the UK "Godfather of Breakbeat"

The Start – Shakedown! (143/Geffen) new from former members of LA's Snot and Human Waste Project

Joe Strummer & The Messcaleros – Global A Go-Go (Hellcat/Epitaph) new from the former Clash front man

Tiger Army – II: Power of Moonlite (Hellcat/Epitaph) psychobilly madness featuring Geoff Kresge of AFI

Varnaline – Songs in a Northern Key (Artemis) the fifth album from Anders Parker and company

Written by John James Tuesday, 17 July 2001 18:00

Zoo Story – Zoo Story (Universal)