

THE CCM UPDATE

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC

'SET FIRE' DESTROYS SANDI PATTI'S HELVERING AGENCY OFFICES

ANDERSON, Ind.--The offices of The Helvering Agency, the booking and management company that handles Sandi Patti and other gospel artists, were destroyed last week by fires that Anderson Fire Department chief investigator Terry King deemed to be "of an incendiary origin--or set fires."

The department was notified at 3:43 a.m. last Tuesday morning, by a passer-by, who called in to report it from a convenience store. According to King, firefighters discovered separate fires with apparently different points of origin, and called for the beginnings of an immediate investigation, as they feared they would lose the whole building due to wind problems at the time. "Photographs were taken in the offices that have made it obvious to us that these were set fires."

King described what the department has determined to be two points of origin for the fires--one set inside the front door of the office complex, and one set in John and Sandi Helvering's offices--both set with a flammable/combustible liquid. The mode of entry into the building was still yet to be determined at press time--whether it be forced or keyed.

The "buffer" area, which warehoused sound and lighting equipment, among other things, was spared (save some minor damage), due to a firewall separating it from the main offices. The garage structures and buses were undamaged, as were master tapes of Patti's recordings. The complex is on 30 acres of land and is owned by the Helverings.

According to WERK radio in Muncie, a woman professing to be part of a group she called the "Equal Religious Coalition" claimed responsibility for setting the fire. In a phone call last Wednesday to the *Anderson Herald Bulletin*, the unidentified woman read the following statement: "The Equal Religious Coalition announces on the early morning hours of April 17, 1990, we set fire to the Sandi Patti studios."

The caller claimed the fire was set "in objection to Patti's blatancy to continue to put herself on the pedestal of God." Investigators say they are "utilizing all of the intelligence gathering agencies we can to run down some potential leads, though at this time we cannot pin down a motive that would stand up to any scrutiny." King told CCM that the Indiana Arson Crime Association's awards chairman has agreed to raise the reward leading to the arrest of the criminal, from \$1000 to \$5000 dollars, "due to the gravity and notoriety of the situation."

Patti, who looked on in tears as firefighters sifted through the debris, said, "It was a pretty devastating phone call to find out that your office was on fire. When we got here though, there was nobody here and no injuries." Husband John Helvering added, "Awards and things like that...material possessions...we can replace those. Everbody being safe, that's what's most important." When asked what the company's plans were for the future, Helvering replied, "Basically just regroup and figure out where we're going to move to temporarily. We're going to continue on here in Anderson."

Thanks to Jeff Brown of WERK in Muncie, IN for his help in compiling this story.

AMY GRANT SUES MARVEL COMICS OVER "DAMAGING" USE OF PHOTO

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--Attorneys for Amy Grant have filed suit in the U.S. District Court against Marvel Comics and illustrator Jackson Guice for what they say is an unauthorized and damaging use of Grant's likeness on the cover of an occultic comic book.

The suit, which was filed here on April 6, alleges that the cover of the March 15, 1990 issue of *Dr. Strange, Sorcerer Supreme* was "copied or derived" from a photo used in Grant's 1986 release, *The Collection*.

Grant's attorney, James Randolph Smith, said in an official statement: "In our suit we state that that particular issue features ongoing characters, storylines and artwork related to witchcraft, sorcery, science fiction and other fantasy, horror and/or occult subject matters. This situation was brought to Ms. Grant's attention by fans and through other sources."

The statement goes on to say that in addition to an injunction demanding that Marvel stop distributing the comic book, yet-to-be-determined monetary damages are also being sought.

"Ms. Grant is of the belief that many fans of Christian music consider interest in witchcraft and the occult to be contrary to their Christian beliefs and to the message of Christian music in general," said Smith. "Therefore, any association of Ms. Grant or her likeness with products such as comic books, and, in particular, publications dealing with the occult, is likely to cause irreparable injury to Ms. Grant's reputation and goodwill."

When contacted by CCM, a spokesperson at Marvel refused to comment on the lawsuit.

SEMINAR: HOW TO EFFECT CHANGE WITHIN YOUR FORMAT

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--This year, registrants at the National Christian Radio Seminar (NCRS) heard a lot about change. In his keynote address, Josh McDowell said that if radio didn't change its attitudes about the validity of contemporary music to reach today's youth, we were going to lose them. In his "Broadcasting Issues for the '90s" address, Don Benson told registrants, "Change will be the most pervasive issue for radio in the '90s." Joe Battaglia, chairman of NCRS and general manager of WWDJ, New York, said it's time to change because, "People aren't rejecting God so much as they are rejecting the package in which we're presenting Him."

Okay, so it's time to change. Any suggestions as to how to accomplish that? Enter Warren Smith, director of communications for the Atlanta-based ODR Corporation. Billing themselves as "The Implementation Experts," ODR has helped implement change at numerous Fortune 500 companies as well as private and government agencies. In an NCRS workshop, Smith stated, "Change is going to be one of the most vital issues of the '90s, but most of us will be victims of change rather than implementors of change. We must learn how to affectively manage change, and do it in such a way that it will be duplicatable."

Smith contended that most of us implement change at our stations rather haphazardly. There's no real plan, and if we do make an effective change it's a result of luck rather than design. Faced with the changes we will all have to deal with in the decade ahead, we must create effective plans to identify needed changes, and implement these changes in our organizations. "Assimilating change is the process that occurs when people adjust to a positive or negative shift in their expectations," said Smith. "Change can be a costly process because it involves such things as intellectual, psychological and physical energy as well as personal, professional and relational risk. Most of us are willing to invest the energies needed, but few of us are willing to take the risks because of the pain involved in the process. We are motivated to change when we realize that the risk of maintaining the status quo is greater than the pain associated with change."

Smith then detailed (through a very comprehensive handout) how effective change can be accomplished in our industry: by identifying the sponsor (those people within our organization who have the power to legitimize change), the agent (the individual or group who is responsible for implementing the change), the target (those who must actually change), and the advocate (those who want to achieve a change, but don't have the power to legitimize the change).

"Change is a process," said Smith "not an event. It
(Continued on page 3)

OUT AND ABOUT...

* Last issue we showed you a picture of Amy Grant with some fine looking radio guys holding some fine looking awards--we just didn't tell you what they were. Grant was presented with an RIAA certified gold record for *My Father's Eyes* (her second album from 1979), and platinum awards for *A Christmas Album* and *The Collection*. The hits just keep on coming....

* The RIAA has also released its "heavy metal" for March, and we're happy to report that **Maranatha Music's** *Kid's Praise I*, released in September of 1980, has been given the gold for 500,000 units sold, and **Carman's** *Live...Radically Saved* video has been certified gold as well....

* To celebrate **Randy Stonehill's** 20th year in contemporary Christian music, the artist will perform a special anniversary concert on May 12th in southern California, with special appearances by many artists and friends of Stonehill such as **Da, Mark Heard, Swirling Eddies, Gary Chapman, Tom Howard, Bryan Duncan and Phil Keaggy**, with others sending in their best wishes by video tape. Contact Celebration Concerts for tickets (408/243-5641), but if you can't make it, rest assured. Myrrh Records is audio and video taping the event for release this fall....

* **The Benson Company** and **Youth for Christ** are working together to provide the music for "DC '91," the Congress on Youth Evangelism, July 17-21, 1991 in Washington, D.C. Artists scheduled for the

conference are **Carman, DeGarmo & Key, Commissioned, Glad, Al Denson, Billy & Sarah Gaines, Crystal Lewis** and **DC Talk**. In addition to Youth for Christ's campaign for the event, Benson will promote DC '91 through print and radio ads, point-of-purchase displays in CBA stores, and a national radio contest....

* **Bill Gaither** is spearheading an awareness campaign in support of male leadership, centering around his latest song, "A Few Good Men." The song features additional vocals by the **Imperials, The Cathedrals**, and **Mylon LeFevre**. Other well-known Christian male leaders getting involved with the campaign include **Charles Colson, Dr. James Dobson**, and **Pat Robertson**....

* **Entertainment Tonight** ran a special "Inside Story" segment on gospel music last Wednesday night, covering everything from Amy Grant to Elvis, with some strange choices of focus. For some reason we can't really figure out, ET zeroed in on the "third degree" questioning actress **Shirley Jones** claimed to receive from Diadem president George King, who was also interviewed, regarding the nature of her commitment to Christianity....

* **The James Lloyd Group** has announced the availability of its **Christian Media Directory** in Q&A, Dbase II and III, Aladdin, DIF, Fixed ASCII (SDF), and Standard ASCII formats. Contact 503/488-1405 for pricing information....