

**ENTERTAINMENT
 BRIEFS**

**Leno at peace
 with ex-manager**

NEW YORK (AP) — Jay Leno says he's at peace with how he and former manager Helen Kushnick parted. Kushnick, who built Leno's career as his manager for 17 years and then jeopardized it, died of cancer in August.

"It was a bad breakup," Leno says in the new issue of TV Guide. Their split came after problems that included Kushnick alienating guests amid a fierce booking war with rival talk show hosts Arsenio Hall and David Letterman.



Leno

"It had been coming for a long time. I was tired of pretending there wasn't a problem ... Helen was the one who broke something off that was that," Leno said.

When both of his parents died Leno said he heard nothing from Kushnick, who knew them both. "Not even a note," he said. "If she had written, I would have picked up the phone. After that I thought — that's it."

**Lisa Marie pays
 tribute to father**

LONDON (AP) — The latest Elvis impersonator is a chip off the old block.

There's the same shoeshine-black cowlick, the same lippy smile, the same long, elegant nose — but this time they're attached to a young woman's body.

Lisa Marie Presley sports her dad's famous ducktail hairstyle in photos splashed across an English newspaper on Sunday, wearing a 1950s-style bikini.

Ten months after her divorce from pop icon Michael Jackson, she told The Sunday Express she is modeling for Gianni Versace and reconciling with first husband, drummer Danny Keough, the father of her son and daughter.

The tribute to her father doesn't extend to some of his excesses. She keeps to a minimalist diet and describes her late father's fashion tastes as "gaudy."

**Mother Madonna
 survives stress**

NEW YORK (AP) — Madonna had nightmares that endless dancing during the making of "Evita" was going to hurt her unborn baby.

The singer-actress summoned a doctor to have the fetal heartbeat checked in the middle of an arduous dance sequence that she had repeated at least 15 times in 36 hours, she says in the October issue of Vogue.

"OK, I didn't kill it," she recalled thinking after the test. "I can go back to the set now."

Pregnancy took its toll. Madonna complained of feeling exhausted throughout the production and had to use furs, garters and other props to camouflage her swelling tummy.



Madonna

She also thought ex-husband Sean Penn got married last spring as "some sort of knee-jerk response to me, if you must know, when it was revealed that I was pregnant. My reaction was, this is Sean trying to be dramatic."

BURNING IT UP



Kerosene 454

Washington, D.C. band ignites onstage with a fiery passion for post-punk rock music.

BY APRIL TOWERY
 THE BATTALION

Jawbox and Kerosene 454 created the Washington, D.C., punk style of music in the same way that Nirvana and Pearl Jam created the Seattle grunge rock.

Kerosene 454 released their second album, *Came By to Kill Me*, two weeks ago on the Discord/Slow Dime label. The quartet is touring the U.S. and Canada and is stopping in College Station tonight at Vertigo.

Bassist John Wall, 28, a medical and clinical psychology graduate student at the University of Maryland, said the style of the band is different from the mainstream definition of punk rock.

"Our music is very aggressive, post-punk rock," Wall said. "It's not the alternative radio music, more like fun-loving campground music."

The band members of Kerosene 454 said their music is influenced by Minute Men and Meat Puppets. The name of the band symbolizes the effects of their music.

"Our music is aggressive, but not like Pantera or anything," Wall said. "We think it's abrasive and flammable — like kerosene."

The close-knit quartet has been making music together for two- and-a-half years, although Wall and his brother, guitarist James Wall, 26, have been jamming together since their high school days.

"Our parents were not excited about the band at first," John Wall said. "They wanted everyone to go to school and get a real job, but now they are very supportive of us."

Kerosene 454 originated in California and moved to D.C. to get

serious about the music.

Six months after the move, the band put out its first album, *Situation at Hand* with Art Monk Construction Records. John Wall said everything quickly fell into place for the band.

"It was a little overwhelming, but we enjoyed it," he said. "We got to be really good friends. We lived together and practiced in our basement."

The band members' neighbors belong to another D.C. punk band, Crown Hate Ruin.

John Wall said the band decided to play in College Station after Crown Hate Ruin played at Vertigo this summer.

The Kerosene 454 tour with Blue Tip also includes other Texas stops at Austin, Dallas, Denton and San Antonio.

John Wall said the band enjoys good response from audience members.

"It's kind of embarrassing when people sing along to our songs, but it's really motivating," he said.

John Wall said touring is one of the better aspects of being a musician.

"Traveling and meeting people is a lot of fun, and you don't really have to work for anybody," he said.

For now, the Wall brothers and the other band members plan to continue touring through late November and pursuing their musical dreams.

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John Wall
 Kerosene 454 bassist

STRIKE A MATCH

Blue Tip band members promise a rocking show despite lack of pyrotechnics

BY APRIL TOWERY
 THE BATTALION

Two seventh-graders became friends because of their common interest in music. Today, 15 years later, they are the lead singer and guitarist of Washington, D.C., punk band Blue Tip.

Guitarist and "backup screaming vocalist," Dave Stern, said he had played with lead vocalist Jason Ferrel for several years before Blue Tip originated in mid-1995.

"We'd been in and out of bands together for years, then we met our bass player through a friend," Stern said. "We got a new drummer two months ago who played in the Garden Variety of Long Island."

Blue Tip's first release was a 7-inch compilation album on which they had recorded two songs with Jawbox's Jay Robbins. The band released its debut full-length album on June 3 with Discord Records. The catalog number is Discord 101, so the band members decided to use that as the title of the album.

"We've gotten a pretty good response to *Discord 101*," Stern said. "It's gotten

ten good reviews, but we're just glad to know that people are looking into the depth of the lyrics and taking it seriously."

Stern said he wants the crowd to enjoy their show with Kerosene 454 at Vertigo tonight.

"There are no fireworks, but [the show] is energetic," he said.

Stern said he wants the band's stage performance to attract people to their shows.

"We try to entertain to a certain point," he said. "We want to sound different live than recorded. People should have some inspiration to see us live, instead of just wanting to sit at home and listen to the CD."

Stern said although he is unfamiliar with College Station, he is looking forward to the show here.

"Is that where the University of Texas is?" he asked.

"I feel the same way about playing in College Station as I do about playing in Little Rock — I've never been there, but I look forward to it and hope it's cool."



Blue Tip

Stern said Blue Tip, named after a box of matches, has a personal appeal to its listeners.

"OK, here's the stereotypical thing to say, we write about everyday stuff," he said. "We write a lot of stuff just feeding off each other. We're still getting to know (drummer) Joe and discovering his sense of humor."

Blue Tip has a particular song, "Nickelback," one of their favorites to play live, Stern said.

"It's really fast and has good lyrics," Stern said. "It's personal to Jason because it's about his living environment — a basement with very little sunlight. He sings it from the heart."

Blue Tip will close out the tour with Kerosene 454 in November and head back to Washington, D.C., where they will begin working on new material. Stern said being on the road has been worthwhile because of his love for music.

"Making music gives you an overall feeling of accomplishment," Stern said. "You get out of it what you put into it. We do it for the kids."