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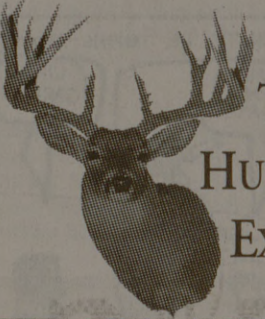
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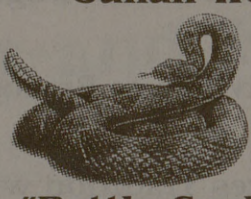

TEXAS HUNTERS EXPO

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MTV fulfills one guy's dream

NEWYORK (AP) — He only wanted a brief glimpse of MTV from the inside — just for fun, to join 4,000 other hopefuls grabbing at the instafame that the absurdly popular music television network bestows upon viewers now and then.

On Monday night, Josiah "Jesse" Camp, all of 19, found himself sitting in the veejay's chair in MTV's Times Square studios, freestyling his own lyrics, interviewing Lenny Kravitz, taking a call from Jakob Dylan and wading into Manhattan's rush-hour crowds for a few quick absurdist interviews with fans. Even veteran news anchor Kurt Loder had this to say: "Jesse, you ARE rock and roll."

Thanks to MTV and his own peculiar brand of charisma, Jesse Camp had arrived.

"You gotta go nuts. You never know how long this is gonna last," he said. "You get in these crazy situations and the only way you can deal with it is not to take it seriously."

Fortunately, this was MTV, where not being serious is serious business, and Jesse, an aspiring drummer for an East Village band called Easy Action, fit in immediately.

He made his live-television debut five months after arriving in Manhattan from suburban Connecticut and two days after being selected by producers and viewers from the would-be talent that showed up at the network's door last week for its "become a veejay" contest. (For the uninitiated: veejay is to video jockey as deejay is to — well, you get it.)

Viewer participation has been a staple of MTV since the very beginning, when the station flew a contest winner to Hawaii in 1982 to party with the then-popular Devo.

Much of the network's programming focuses on regular viewers: call-ins, contests, street interviews

and shows like "The Real World," in which stalls trendy twentysomethings in a house and the results.

Somewhat to MTV's surprise, the network never issued an open casting call for veejays. "One of the things we really want to do is identify with the audience," said Dave Simulnick, vice president for MTV news and production.

"We didn't know going in who would be who wouldn't," he said. But with Jesse, "there was that spark — something there."

Though he had no on-air experience, he prepared. He is a fringe rock icon waiting to be — Nosferatu build, Ziggy Stardust face, hair like bimbos Medusa with Don King on a humid day.

His outfit: a sheer, brown, sequined Mongolian lambswool scarf to match; blue lemon-yellow socks and blue bell-bottoms with a leg warmer worn over the right thigh.

And his voice — well, his voice made the thing worthwhile. A strange, throaty mezzo-echoed Spicoli from "Fast Times" and Bob Dylan undertones of Barry White.

He used it to his advantage, freestyling throughout the show, letting loose with a bit of extravaganzas that even rhymed "China" with "da." Jaws dropped backstage.

"He's good — he's actually cool!" one staffer said. And this from the network's Simulnick: "We gave him up to cut a record."

Of course, MTV lives off the idea that change and unpredictability are hip, and Jesse embodied that. "This is the best thing that's ever happened here," he said. "I got 20 girls' numbers just in the past few days."

He grinned. "OK, maybe not 20. I guess I'm embellishing."

Linda McCartney remembered in song

REDDING, Conn. (AP) — Long before Paul McCartney penned one note for his beloved bride, Linda McCartney had a song written for her that made the charts in 1947.

Composer Jack Lawrence wrote "Linda" for then-Linda Eastman when she was six at the bequest of her father, Lee V. Eastman, a Scarsdale, N.Y., entertainment lawyer.

Three days after Linda McCartney died of cancer at age 56, Lawrence recalled the little girl that inspired the words: "When I go to sleep, I never count sheep. I count all the charms about Linda."

The song became a hit when it was recorded by Buddy Clark in 1947. It also was recorded by Perry Como and Jan and Dean.

Lawrence, 86, said a re-release of the song as sheet music has a photo of him and the young Linda sitting at his piano.

Media personality, Murdoch, divorces

NEW YORK (AP) — Media and entertainment mogul Rupert Murdoch and his wife, Anna, have separated after 32 years of marriage.

The separation was amicable and the Murdochs are seeking to work out their differences, their spokesman, Howard Rubenstein, said Tuesday.

Murdoch's wife, a novelist and philanthropist, will remain on the board of Murdoch's News Corp., an international company that produces movies and television as Twentieth Century Fox, runs the Fox News Channel and owns the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team.

Its annual revenues exceed \$10 billion.

Murdoch, 67, lives in Los Angeles. The Murdochs have three children — James, Lachlan and Elisabeth — who hold high-profile jobs in News Corp.

Sinatra celebrates May 28-31 in Vegas

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Celebrating that former astronaut Aldrin's favorite Frank Sinatra "Fly Me To The Moon." But Jack Lemmon like "In The Morning"?

"I was courting my wife, and we played it together," Lemmon explained.

It's also entertainer Sinatra's favorite: "I have twin boys and for the last four or five years sung this song to them as when they're going to sleep."

Sinatra fans' favorites are collected for a Thank Frank book to be presented during a celebration entertainer May 28-31 in Las Vegas.

The event includes a tournament that benefits the Sinatra Children's Center at the Howard Medical Center.

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