

D011 THE 1965 SF PRESS CONFERENCE ~ A PARTIAL WHO'S WHO

The press conference was organized by Ralph Gleason (see below) and staged at the 4th and Bryant Street studios of educational San Francisco TV station KQED on Friday 3 December 1965.

[X:XX] = DVD screenshot timing



(1) **MICHELLE BASIL** [28:08; *Your songs are supposed to have a subtle message ...*] One of four junior year students - see also (24-26) below - from Redwood High School in Larkspur, Marin County. Described in 2008, under her married name of McFee, as "a core member of the Bay Area music and arts community".

(2) **GARY GOODROW** [4:30 - after D says *Oh, yes ... Oh, sure ...*, see him smiling, left screen, open-necked shirt.] Comedian and actor; founding member of SF comedy improv troupe The Committee.

(3) **ROLLIN POST** [22:34; *When you stop making money?*] Bay area political reporter (though a New Yorker by birth) working for KPIX in 1965, though later joined KQED (where we see him) then, in 1979, KRON where he stayed until his retirement in 1999.

(4) **PHILIP ELWOOD (1926-2006)** [11:16 - after the question is asked *If you were going to sell out to a commercial interest ...*, Elwood can be seen, upper left screen, briefly raising his left hand to his mouth.] Jazz critic for the *San Francisco Examiner* (and later the *Chronicle*) for more than 35 years. His review of the first Berkeley show featured words like *spiritless, mediocre, dour, shouting and wailing* but concluded: *It isn't emotionally or physically easy to attend a Dylan concert but it's provocative and rewarding in a degree seldom found elsewhere in American artistic expression.*

(5) **ROBERT SHELTON (1926-1995)** [43:55 - see him, top right of screen, as speaker Post says *You really have no idea ...*] D biographer and, while on the staff of the *New York Times*, an important early career influence.

(6) **ALLEN GINSBERG (1926-1997)** [6:49 - with beard and glasses, just after D name-checks him.] Poet, sometime collaborator, friend.



(7) **RALPH J. GLEASON (1917-1975)** [1:15 and throughout]. SF-based TV and print journalist, later co-founder (with Jann Wenner) of *Rolling Stone* and (after early reservations) staunch D advocate.

(8) **ERIC WEIL** [1:39] Asks the event's first question (about the cover photo of *H61R*) then takes many pictures.

(9) **MARY ANN POLLAR (1927-1999)** [5:00; *Bob, you said you always do your words first ...*] Promoted many Bay area concerts in the early sixties, including some of D's. (She was clearly involved with his forthcoming run of five too, for, at the very end, after Bob has gone, someone jokingly hits on her for "better tickets" while to the question "Are they all sell-outs, Mary Ann?" she replies "No, not quite.") You can also hear her asking where the evening's (first post-show) party will be and, according to BM (see below), wound up hosting it herself at her Berkeley home.



(10) **LORIE SAXON** [11:18, sitting to the left of Mary Ann Pollar]. Friend of Pollar, for whom she often wrote press releases concerning Pollar-produced concerts.

(11) **JIM MARSHALL (1936-2010)** [44:25; *Do you feel that part of the popularity is because of an identification...?*] "One of the great photographers of musicians and entertainers, having more than 500 album and CD covers to his credit. His photographs of Woodstock, the Monterey Pop Festival, the final Beatles concert and

the vibrant youth culture of San Francisco in the 1960s are among the most iconic images of the era."

(12) **LARRY HANKIN** [32:00; *What do you bother to write the poetry for if we all get different images?*] Actor; another member of The Committee - see (2) above - with well over one hundred IMDb credits dating from 1966 to the present day. (And what a lovely answer Bob gives him.)



(13) **BILL GRAHAM (1931-1991)** [25:50; *Of all the people who record your compositions ...*] In December '65 was manager of a SF-based mime-troupe - indeed, the poster D holds up at [47:30] advertises a benefit concert organised by Graham on their behalf. (When Bob mentions that "someone" gave it to him, you can hear Bill shout: "I did!") It was the success of this venture that opened Graham's eyes to the possibilities of a career in promotion - by decade's end, having found his calling, he was the most forward-thinking and influential rock impresario on the block. Promoted D's 1974 and 1984 Tours, among others. *A cross between Mother Teresa and Al Capone* (Peter Coyote). See and hear a little more of him on D027.asu / D400.su.

(14) **JONATHAN COTT** [7:02; *In Positively 4th Street you're pretty hard on the supposed friend ...*] Then a writer for *Ramparts* magazine (edited by Gleason). Went on to join *Rolling Stone* (for whom he interviewed D in 1978), produce *Dylan* (book) in 1985 and edit *BD: The Essential Interviews* in 2006.

(15) **LISA HOBBS** [13:28; *Mr Dylan, you call yourself a completely disconnected person ...*] Journalist - wrote up this event for the *SF Examiner*, where she described D as "an under-nourished kewpie doll" [with] "little suede boots".



(16) **MICHAEL GRIEG** [34:30; *For most of this dialogue, or monologue ...*] Another journo. Both headline - **It's Lonely Where I Am** - and content of his subsequent

Chronicle piece neatly validate D's complaint to him that reporters in the main cannot be trusted.

(17) **MICHAEL McCLURE** [32:39, left of screen.] Poet, playwright, songwriter, novelist, born in Kansas in 1932.

(18) **ELSA KNIGHT THOMPSON (1906-1983)** [45:51, as voice says *Other than the booing ...*] Influential radio documentarian and broadcaster. Worked for the BBC in London during World War II. Public Affairs Director at KPFA from 1957 to the early 1970s. "A pathfinder for women in broadcasting."



(19) **BOB NEUWIRTH** [12:53] Sitting quietly on the back row, wearing shades, visible over McClure's right shoulder. Singer, painter, associate, friend, the legs on the front cover of *H61R* and co-vocalist (the one without the mask) in *Renaldo And Clara's* opening song.

(20) **RICK DANKO (1942-1999)** [33:24] Band bassman, shades, behind Ginsberg.

(21) **JEAN GLEASON (1918-2009)** [14:32; *Phil Ochs wrote something in a recent Broadside magazine ...*] Wife and widow of Ralph J.

(22) **JERRY JENSON (1934-1984)** [48:10] Brief left profile shot. News anchor on Channels 4 (1959-67), 44 (1967-9) then 7 from 1969 until his premature death in 1984.



(23) **ROBERT N. ZAGONE** [29:14] Floor director. Went on to score film / TV producer / director credits in 1967 and 1970; co-wrote and directed drama *Read You Like A Book* (2006).

(24) **JOHN CAMPBELL** [32:40; *Did they censor you from singing ... on The Ed Sullivan Show?*] (Also asks later where Desolation Row is.)

(25) **DAVID GREENFIELD** [41:21; *Do you get any help from the group that you play with?*] and

(26) **HENRY FARRE** [45:51, behind Elsa Knight Thompson]

are fellow journalism students, along with Michelle Basil - see (1) above - from Redwood High School, Larkspur, Marin County.



(27) **(FRED) VAN AMBURG** [13:55; *Mr Dylan, I know you dislike labels and probably rightfully so ...*] Bay Area radio reporter and TV news anchor on Channels 5 (1962-9) and 7 (1969-86).

(28) **LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI** Poet, painter, publisher born in Yonkers, New York in 1919. Bald head, beard, open-necked shirt; can be seen lounging in front of Jean Gleason - (21) above - as she asks her Phil Ochs / *Broadside* question at [14:32].

(29) at [3:02] *You were quoted in The Chicago Daily News as saying ...*

(30) at [4:30] *Do you think that there will ever be a time when you will paint or sculpt?*



(31) at [15:36] *You're considered by many people to be symbolic of the protest movement ...*

(32) at [26:33] *What's your new book about?*

(33) at [27:20] *Mr Dylan ... How would you define folk music?* and

(34) at [37:56] *Do you find that when you're writing you ... free-associate?*

are **active questioners as yet unknown**. Anyone??



(35) Sitting on Neuwirth's immediate left, behind McClure, is a young woman with long dark hair and granny glasses. The camera catches her well just once, at [32:40]. Bob married Sara Lownds on 22 November 1965, just eleven days before this press conference event. Would he have wanted to leave his new wife behind in New York? Is this **SARA DYLAN**?

And finally ...



(36) **BOB DYLAN** Song and Dance Man *extraordinaire*.

SPECIAL THANKS To Blair Miller for original research. For further info see:

<http://kripes.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=general&action=display&thread=1>