Really *from page E1*

Recently, WDRQ held a contest encouraging listeners to gather as many signatures as they could as proof of their love of Hanson.

"It was like conducting a little petition survey. You earned a certain amount of points depending on the age of the person who signed. It encouraged people to spread the word about Hanson and the show that is going on, and the radio station," VanDoran said.

The winner, a Dearborn Heights woman, gathered 2,672 signatures.

"Some of the moms or dads or big sisters or big brothers were just as geeked as the kids were," she explained.

VanDoran added that many kids compared it to "selling Girl Scout Cookies. They had a goal and they were going to get it."

Radio station WKQI, Q95.5, witnessed the Hanson craze first hand – and had to pay for it. When Hanson visited the radio station, throngs of girls surrounded the building hoping to get a glimpse of their idols.

"We had so many little screaming frantic girls that we had to get our landscapers out because they trashed our lawn," Boss said with a laugh. "All the little girls and their parents were here, running all over the whole building looking to see when they were coming out."

"It was so funny. One little girl, bless her little heart, she didn't see there was a glass door. She ran into the glass door like a little bird. She was OK," she added.

Another little girl, Boss said, was run over by a security guard who was escorting Hanson out to its car.

"She was OK, too. She just got the wind knocked out of her. It was mad."

Late last month, throngs of mothers flocked Harmony House and other sites of Ticketmaster outlets to buy up the more than 15,000 seats available for the Hanson concert at Pine Knob Monday, June 29.

The show sold out in eight minutes. To put it in perspective, Jimmy Buffett's Aug. 9, 1997, concert at Pine Knob sold out in six.

But not everyone has seen the hype.

The Hanson boys peer out from the frozen food section sandwiched between boxes of hash browns, frozen TV dinners and artificial egg products. Since Hanson began gracing boxes of Eggos, however, a store manager at a local Kroger store hasn't seen sales increase significantly.

"Eggo in general is a good-selling item. I don't know if we're selling more because Hanson's on the box. I think the movement is about normal. It's a very good brand and it sells well whether the Hansons (sic) are on it or it's just a plain Eggo box."

Spicy dishes

OK, well the Spice Girls aren't exactly "squeaky" clean. The now-departed Ginger Spice, otherwise known as Geri Halliwell, has done some nude modeling. But face it; "girl power" has never been stronger.

At the debut of their movie "SpiceWorld" on Tuesday, Jan. 20, young girls accompanied by their mothers filled the Star John R theater with shouts of "Girl Power," "Sporty, I love you!" Spice Girl rebellion was met with cheers.

In the "Spice Girls" magazine, which curiously also includes a poster of Leonardo DiCaprio, the quartet's mission is spelled out – "girls sticking together. Isn't that what Girl Power is all about? The Spice Girls know better than anyone that in order to succeed, you need to support each other and that's exactly what they do."

It also lists the "Top 10 Rules of Girl Power." In case you missed it, they include: Be confident; Speak your mind; Don't let anyone put you down; Support your girl friends – girls have to stick together; and don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something because you're a girl.

Little girls have grasped this positivity and their parents have lost their grasp on their wallets. Spice Girls dolls and posters are flying off the shelves of toy stores even before they get a chance to settle.

"They're selling very well and the posters are selling very well as well. The product is moving nicely and we are placing additional orders," said Michael Cullen, inventory control manager at the Toys 'R Us main office in Canton.

When asked if the Ginger doll is a hot commodity, he responded flatly, "There have been people certainly wanting to get all of the different dolls. I was in a store last night and they did have the Spice Girls prominently represented in the store. But I didn't see if they had the Ginger doll."

Toys 'R Us is selling the dolls for $12.99 each. The Spice Girls are priced at $24.99 each at FAO Schwarz in Troy's Somerset Collection but that hasn't kept people from buying them.

"Every time they come in they sell out within a day or so. It's just such a big craze right now. We used to take a list of names, but we don't do that any longer because there's such a high demand that we couldn't possible keep up," said FAO Schwarz' store manager Annette Schubiner.

Even her nieces are in on the craze.

"They definitely like the dolls with the outfits and everything else. We can never keep enough in stock. Right now we have little suckers called Spice Girls Pops, and usually when they come in and buy a doll they get a set of them, too," she said

Bottom line

Besides their looks and style, pop bands are offering a diversion from the dark, depressing music that has inundated the airwaves since the beginning of grunge.

"It's a whole new fresh sound that we haven't heard in a long time; not since Michael Jackson, New Kids on the Block. They love the sound. It's upbeat. It's exciting and they sing about things that kids today are familiar with. It doesn't go over their heads. They don't confuse their audiences and listeners with 'Do as we say, not as we do,' " WDRQ's VanDoran said.

"You don't hear stories about them. They're not getting in trouble with the law. They're not going through legal problems," she added.

But the bands' popularity doesn't end with children.

"A lot of people like to think that artists like Hanson and the Backstreet Boys are really only targeting kids, but its popularity reaches across the board," VanDoran said.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Keego Twin Cinema
Orchard Lake Rd.
at Cass Lake Rd.,
682-1900
All Seats $1.50 before 6 pm
$2.50 AFTER 6 PM.
FREE PARKING BURGER KING LOT
Family Matinee FRI.-SAT-SUN

THE WEDDING SINGER (PG13)
WILD THING (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas

Showcase Auburn Hills 1-14
2150 N. Opdyke Rd.
Between University & Walton Blvd
810-373-2660
Bargain Matinees Daily.
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Wed-Thurs. Fri. Sat.

SIX DAYS & SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13)
CAN'T HARDLY WAIT (PG13)
DIRTY WORK (PG13)
PERFECT MURDER (R)
TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
HOPE FLOATS (PG13)
I GOT THE HOOK-UP (R)
GODZILLA (PG13)
QUEST FOR CAMELOT (G)
DEEP IMPACT (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Showcase Dearborn 1-8
Michigan & Telegraph
313-561-3449
Bargain Matinees Daily.
All Shows until 6 pm.
Continuous Shows Daily
* Late Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun.

SIX DAYS & SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13)
PERFECT MURDER (R)
I GOT THE HOOK-UP (R)
GODZILLA (PG13)
QUEST FOR CAMELOT (G)
HORSE WHISPERERS(PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Showcase Pontiac 1-5
Telegraph-Sq. Lake Rd. W Side of Telegraph
810-332-0241
Bargain Matinees Daily
* All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily *

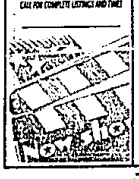
CAN'T HARDLY WAIT (PG13)
TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
HOPE FLOATS (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Showcase Pontiac 6-12
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph
810-334-6777
Bargain Matinees Daily
* All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.

SIX DAYS & SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13)
DIRTY WORK (PG13)
PERFECT MURDER (R)
DEEP IMPACT (PG13)
HORSE WHISPERER (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES



Oxo Vadis
Warren & Wayne Rds
313-425-7700
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Wed.Thurs. Fri. & Sat.

CAN'T HARDLY WAIT (PG13)
DIRTY WORK (PG13)
GODZILLA (PG13)
TITANIC (PG13)
DEEP IMPACT (PG13)
QUEST FORCAMELOT(G)
HORSE WHISPERER (PG13)

ALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Showcase Westland 1-8
6800 Wayne Rd.,
One blk S. of Warren Rd.
313-729-1060
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Wed.Thurs. Fri. & Sat.

SIX DAYS & SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13)
PERFECT MURDER (R)
TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
HOPE FLOATS (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily $4.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
"NP" Denotes No Pass Engagement

Star John-R
at 14 Mile
32289 John R. Road
810-585-2070

No one under 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
GODZILLA (PG13)
BULWORTH (R)
HORSE WHISPERER (PG 13)
QUEST FOR CAMELOT (G)
TITANIC (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Rochester Hills
200 Barclay Circle
853-2260
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP SIX DAYS & SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13)
NP THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
NP A PERFECT MURDER (R)
HOPE FLOATS (PG13)
GODZILLA (PG13)
THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG13)
DEEP IMPACT (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Southfield
12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern, Off I-696
248-353-STAR
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP CAN'T HARDLY WAIT (PG13)
NP SIX DAYS & SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13)
NP DIRTY WORK (PG13)
NP THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG13)
NP PERFECT MURDER (R)
GODZILLA (PG13)
DEEP IMPACT (PG13)
THE QUEST FOR CAMELOT (G)
THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG13)
NP BULWORTH (R)
HOPE FLOATS (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Star Winchester
1136 S. Rochester Rd, Winchester Mall
248-656-1160
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP ALMOST HEROES (PG13)
NP FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (R)
QUEST FOR CAMELOT (G)
PAULIE (PG)
SPANISH PRISONER (PG)
TITANIC (PG13)
LES MISERABLES (PG13)
CITY OF ANGELS (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM
Same day advance tickets available.
MV - No VIP tickets accepted

United Artists Fairlane
Fairlane Town Center
Valet Parking Available
313-593-4790

ALL TIMES FOR FRI-THURS.
MIDNIGHT SHOWS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG) MV
DIRTY WORK (PG13) MV
CAN'T HARDLY WAIT (PG13) MV
FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (R)
HOPE FLOASTS (PG13)
BULLWORTH (R) MV
DEEP IMPACT (PG13) MV
TITANIC (PG13)
PAULIE (PG)

FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artist Oakland
Inside Oakland Mall
248-988-0706

SIX DAYS AND SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13) MV
CAN'T HARDLY WAIT (PG13) MV
DEEP IMPACT (PG13) MV

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists 12 Oaks
Inside Twelve Oaks Mall
248-349-4311

SIX DAYS AND SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13) MV
THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG) MV
DIRTY WORK (PG13) MV
GODZILLA (PG13) MV
DEEP IMPACT (PG13) MV

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

United Artists West River
9 Mile,
2 Block West of Meadlebelt
248-788-6572

SIX DAYS AND SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13) MV
THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG) MV
CAN'T HARDLY WAIT (PG13) MV
DIRTY WORK (PG13) MVA
PERFECT MURDER (R) MV
HOPE FLOATS (PG13) MV
GODZILLA (PG13) MV
I GOT THE HOOK-UP (R) MV
HORSE WHISPERER (PG13)
DEEP IMPACT (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Birmingham Theatre
211 S. Woodward
Downtown Birmingham
248-644-3419
NP Denotes No Pass Engagements

Order Movie tickets by phone! Call 644-3419 and have your VISA or Master Card ready! (A 75¢ surcharge will apply to all telephone sales)

NP THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
NP A PERFECT MURDER (R)
NP SIX DAYS , SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13)
HOPE FLOATS (PG13)
GODZILLA (PG13)
BULWORTH (R)
THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG13)
DEEP IMPACT (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

MJR THEATRES

$1.00 Ford Tel $1.50
313-561-7200
$1.00 til 6 pm
After 6 pm, $1.50
Ample Parking - Telford Center
Free Refill on Drinks & Popcorn
Please Call Theatre for Showtimes

ODD COUPLE II (PG13)
OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (PG13)
MERCURY RISING (R)
SCREAM 2 (R)
BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (G)
SUMMER MATINEES

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

99¢ Livonia Mall
Livonia Mall at 7 mile
810-476-8800
CALL 77 FILMS 1541
ALL SEATS 99¢ ALL SHOWS
FREE Refill on Drinks & Popcorn

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (G)
ODD COUPLE II (PG13)
BLACK DOG (R)
OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (PG13)
WEDDING SINGER (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Waterford Cinema II
7501 Highland Rd.
S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd.
24 Hour Movie Line
(248) 666-7900
CALL 77 FILMS 1551
Stadium Seating and Digital sound Makes for the Best Movie Experience in Oakland County
$3.25 (TWI LITE) SHOWS DAILY

NP SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (PG13)
NP CAN'T HARDLY WAITY (PG13)
NP DIRTY WORK (PG13)
NP THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)
NP A PERFECT MURDER (R)
ALMOST HEROES (PG13)
HOPE FLOATS (PG13)
GODZILLA (PG13)
HORSE WHISPERER (PG13)
BULWORTH (LR)
QUEST FOR CAMELOT (G)
DEEP IMPACT (PG13)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Visa & Mastercard Accepted

Terrace Cinema
30400 Plymouth Rd.
313-261-3330

All shows $1 except shows after 6 p.m.
+ All Shows $1.50
75¢ every Tuesday
Would you like to see free Movies? Then become a "FREQUENT VIEWER"! COME IN AND FIND OUT HOW

SUN.-THURS
Box Office opens at 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday only

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Main Art Theatre III
Main - 11 Mile
Royal Oak
(248) 542-0180
$3.00 (TWI-LITE) SHOWS DAILY

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (S)
WILDE (R)
THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
Children Under 6 Not Admitted

Maple Art Cinema III
4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph
Bloomfield Hills
248-855-9090
DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!

HORSE WHISPERER (PG13)
ARTEMISIA (R)
PRICE ABOVE RUBIES (R)

CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES

Old Orchard 3
Orchard Lake Rd. - N. of I-696-12 Mile
Farmington Hills
248-553-9965

6 DAYS, 7 NIGHTS
THE TRUMAN SHOW
GODZILLA

CALL THEATRE FOR FEATURES & TIMES

Sassy *from page E1*

gigs together down in New Orleans," Ball said from her home in Texas.

Thomas is the senior member of the trio, a rhythm and blues pioneer who began recording as a teenager in the '50s. Her first record was "You Can Have My Husband, but Please Don't Mess With My Man." Her other hits included "I Done Got Over It," It's Raining" and "Time Is On My Side," later covered by the Rolling Stones. Nelson has been recording since the early '70s, starting with the roots rock group Mother Earth and as a single noted for her deep, bluesy country vocals.

Ball is a product both of her native New Orleans and her adopted Texas. She is as well known for her honky-tonk piano as for her singing.

"I started out playing piano. My grandmother played piano and at 5 years old I started piano lessons and played everything I heard around the house," Ball said.

After high school she joined a band as a singer. Her sassy approach to upbeat songs is heard to great effect on a number called "I'm Your Lovermaker (I Ain't No Homemaker)."

Ball said she and Nelson had long been admirers of Thomas and were happy to join forces. And the results were something of a surprise.

"I think we all were surprised. We all had hopes, we had all admired each other, but you never know until you open your mouths," she said.

The CD is a rollicking compendium of what makes each singer special in the field. And though none of them are harmony singers, they blend well together.

"We each brought certain songs that appealed to us," Ball said. "I like several of the things we did as a group. I really like the opening song, 'Sing It,' and the one after that by Joe Tex 'I Want to Do Everything for You,' and the way Irma does 'Yield Not,' and ..."

Ball broke into a quiet laugh in her soft southern accent.

The CD features top line New Orleans musicians from several bands including Buckwheat Zydeco's and Harry Connick's. On tour the group will be backed by Irma Thomas' band.

The tour began June 17 with a 2-1/2-week swing through the Midwest and will resume in September for an eight-day swing through the West Coast.

Ball is the veteran of Frog Island and experienced in its reputation for attracting bad weather.

"I'm just crossing my fingers that it doesn't rain," she said. "It always seems like it's cold."

No doubt this trio will warm it up.

Also performing Friday are the Motor City Street Band, Little Brian Terry & the Zydeco Travelers and Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Band.

The Imperial Swing Orchestra

They're calling Saturday afternoon "A Rockin' Roots BBQ," kicking off with guitar master George Bedard & the Kingpins, but the emphasis this year is on the hot revival of swing with the Canadian group The Johnny Favourite Orchestra, O&E Band of the Year The Twistin' Tarantulas and Ann Arbor's The Imperial Swing Orchestra.

The music of Benny Goodman, Louis Prima, Count Basie and Duke Ellington is finding a new young audience when filtered through bands with a rock edge.

"The beautiful thing about the swing fad is that it promotes quality in music, a good time and good music," said Tom Loncaric, pianist for The Imperial Swing Orchestra. "Not that I don't like rock music, I do, but this music says it's OK to do something with quality."

Loncaric sees the swing to swing as a reaction to the stripped down Seattle grunge bands of recent years.

The 10-member band was formed from a group of students and former students who had been getting together to listen to the classics in the genre.

"It was neat listening to Benny Goodman, Louis Prima and Frank Sinatra," Loncaric said. "It was interesting and there was this underground fad celebrating that music on the West Coast."

It was a trip to see Detroit swingers the Atomic Fireballs that convinced Loncaric that this was the music he wanted to make. Loncaric, 33, teaches music as King's Keyboards and Oz's Music in Ann Arbor and plays piano and guitar dressed in stylish '30s dress.

"It was more uplifting than the music I was used to hearing," Loncaric said.

It is also a music that encourages dancing. Young people across the country are reviving the Lindy Hop and other jitterbug routines to classic numbers like Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing" and original compositions.

"I have been pushing to write our own music. It's important to derive inspiration from that time period and combine it with our own," Loncaric said.

The orchestra includes Ryan Smith of Farmington Hills on saxophone, Patrick Knight of Ann Arbor on upright bass, Chris Neel of Ann Arbor on guitar, Nino Demystryszyn of Oxford on drums, Peter Klaver of Ann Arbor on saxophone, Dave Gilbert of Ann Arbor on saxophone and clarinet, Brandon Cooper of South Lyons on trumpet, David Ruth of Ann Arbor on trumpet and Tracey Leigh of Ann Arbor on vocals.

Loncaric is excited to be playing the same day as Bedard and bluesman Anson Funderberg.

The Imperial Swing Orchestra is planning to record with national producer Mike Napolitano in early July.

Funderberg and his Rockets are part of the Saturday Night blues bash with Thornetta Davis & Co Papa Dah, Eddie Shaw & The Wolf Gang and the Keb' Mo Band.

Sunday is "A Sunday Jazz Picnic," featuring the Keller/Kocher Quartet, the Marion Hayden Sextet, the Lyman Woodard Trio with Betty Joplin and headliners the Andy Bey Trio and the Nat Adderly Quintet.

A musical melange for every taste.

SCREEN SCENE

Magic Bag – 22920 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248) 544-3030 for information. ($2)

"The Wedding Singer" (USA - 1998). 9:30 p.m. Thursday, June 18. Adam Sandler plays the title character, who falls for one of the brides (Drew Barrymore) in this romantic comedy set in the 1980s.

"Clerks" (USA - 1995). 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 24. Kevin Smith's audacious film debut is set in a suburban New Jersey party store where the employees spend most of their time talking about movies and insulting the customers.

Main Art Theatre – 118 N. Main (at 11 Mile Road), Royal Oak. Call (248) 542-0180 for information.

"The Spanish Prisoner" (USA - 1998). Campbell Scott plays a young businessman who develops a dangerous relationship with a mysterious tycoon (Steve Martin). Expect plenty of fascinating verbal interplay in this latest film written and directed by David Mamet ("Glengarry Glen Ross").

"Wilde" (Britain - 1998). Stephen Fry plays the English playwright Oscar Wilde, whose brilliance in plays ("The Importance of Being Earnest") and stories ("The Portrait of Dorian Gray") were partially eclipsed by his scandalous trial involving a male lover.

"The Last Days of Disco" (USA - 1998). Whit Stillman, the introspective director of "Metropolitan" and "Barcelona," delivers what he calls the third story in a loosely woven triptych about the well-heeled young people who populate New York's club scene in the early 1980s.

Midnight movies – "Austin Powers" (USA - 1997) and "The Beyond" (Italy - 1981) both play at the witching hour Friday and Saturday nights.

Maple Art Theatre – Maple at Telegraph, Bloomfield. Call (248) 855-9090 for information. ($6.50; $4 before 6 p.m.)