

Random Notes

Running doesn't 'clash' with career

By Christopher Connelly

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"The biggest temptation will be to run into a pub along the route," Joe Strummer said jokingly as he girded himself to run the London Marathon last month.

The Clash vocalist said he took his training seriously, swearing off alcohol and hitting the road daily. "I like the madness of getting up and running all those miles on a Sunday morning, when normally, I would be fast asleep in bed."

Strummer covered the 26-plus miles in four hours and 30 minutes — and, in the process, raised \$800 for a leukemia-research foundation. "I compose songs a lot while I'm training," he said. "It gives me time to think without being bothered."

Strummer and compadre Mick Jones have been writing songs and

trying to find a new drummer to replace the departed Terry Chimes. The smart money is on the Raincoats' sometime skin-basher Derek Godard.

A FREE WOMAN: Marianne Faithful says her six-year marriage to guitarist-songwriter Ben Brierly is finished. "We're going to Reno. It takes a very, very short time," she said. "For misfits, you know?"

"It is sad, yes ... but wish people would stop thinking that I'm still breaking my heart over dear old Mick."

Her LP "A Child's Adventure" is still on the charts, but the rough-voiced London legend's next vinyl appearance will be on Mitch Ryder's new John Cougar-produced album. They'll duet on "A Thrill's a Thrill," a tune originally done by Long John Baldry.

DENVER AND THE WAILERS: John Denver and the Wailers? Odd as it sounds, His Rocky Mountain Highness has teamed up with the late Bob Marley's band (including Marley's widow, Rita) for "The World Game," a track from Denver's upcoming LP, "It's About Time."

"We got them to come into the studio," Denver said, laughing, "and I think they had no idea why they were there. But they loved the song, so it worked out well. I'm stretching out a little bit."

The song marks the first appearance by the full Wailers unit since Marley's death two years ago. In honor of that anniversary, Island imminently will release "Confrontation," a collection of Marley tracks unreleased in America.



JOHN DENVER