

ROADCASES

UPDATE ON RHODE ISLAND CLUB TRAGEDY

In the aftermath of the tragic fire that swept through the Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island in February 2003, both Great White's tour manager Dan Biechele as well as club owners Jeffrey and Michael Derderian were indicted in early December.

All are charged with 200 counts of involuntary manslaughter, two counts for each person who died in the blaze ignited by the band's onstage pyrotechnics, according to the Rhode Island attorney general's office.

However, the band members don't face criminal charges. Their attorney, Ed McPherson, explains that Biechele was responsible for the agreements that Great White had with venues regarding the use of pyrotechnics. "The band did not always know from night to night when they would use pyro," McPherson says, quoted by *MTV News*.

However, Great White and the Derderians were fined by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in August, and the owners were separately fined more than \$1 million by Rhode Island's labor department in April.

GOOD THING A BOMB DIDN'T GO OFF...

The year was 1990. At a party prior to the AES Los Angeles Convention, JBL's Mark Gander hosted a gathering of audio "heavy hitters" in his Topanga Canyon backyard.

Left to right: Dan Healy, Grateful Dead soundman; Don Pearson, Ultrasound; Ron Borthwick, Clair Brothers; Craig Schertz, then Showco chief engineer, now deceased; Dennis Fink, digital audio consultant; David Martin, Martin Audio, now deceased;

Dave Bearman, then Martin Audio, now MediaMatrix/Peavey U.K.; Albert Lecerese, Audio-Analysts; Mick Whelan, then Electrotec Productions, now Telex/EV (holding daughter, foot protruding down below!); Neil Shaw, Menlo Scientific Acoustics; Jim Brawley, consultant, JSB and Associates; and Mark Gander, JBL Professional.

And yes, that's just fruit punch in those cups!

Submit your RoadCase stories to *Live Sound* Editor Keith Clark at kclark@livesoundint.com

