



Thanks for everything, Woof Woof

The warm tributes that have poured in this week to former CBS artist relations director Derek Witt, who has sadly died, have got us reminiscing on what was a simpler time for the music industry, when stars like Abba could arrive for a no-expenses-spared launch party (held on a boat, obviously) by helicopter. Can you imagine that happening now? We were also charmed to hear how everyone - even Bob Dylan - would refer to Witt as "Woof Woof", as was apparently his catchphrase... Speaking of expenses, who is eating all this fruit and buying all the flowers that is resulting in a **£200,000 bill each year for EMI**? And to top that, apparently the major is also spending £20,000 monthly on candles to decorate a Los Angeles apartment used by artists and others. Good to see the influence of Nancy Berry still lives on then... Now we may still be in the thick of the fourth quarter, but Universal is already turning its attention to 2008, last week giving a platform to a handful of its **key new hopefuls** at a bash for staff, retail and media at London's Bush Hall. Judging by the performances, **it really could be Duffy's year**, but look out, too, for singer-songwriter **Jack McManus**, who let on to Dooley that his musical direction is at least partially down to listening to the likes of Bruce Hornsby in **his dad's record collection**. Debut talent aside, Island staged a series of listening sessions at Sarm Studios later in the week to unveil new material from The Feeling... Columbia

magazine like *Music Week*, she made a good point explaining why two of the winners, Emma Greengrass and Marian Paterson, declined to make speeches after picking up their awards: "If they had been blokes they would have been blathering on for 45 minutes," she quipped... Song Tank hosted an event at Chinawhite last week that saw top



songwriters performing their best-known hits.

Among those performing on the evening were Pam Sheyne, who performed *Genie In A Bottle*, and Wayne Hector and Steve Mac, who performed *Flying Without Wings*. Pictured left to right: Tim Laws (*Song Tank*), Earl Oakin, Sam Reynolds, Adam Argyle, PRS-MCPS chairman Ellis Rich, Wayne Hector, Julian Emeny, Pam Sheyne, Steve Mac, Michael Garvin, Myles Keller from PRS-MCPS and Song Tank founder Ryan Lee (not to be confused with Lee Ryan)... James Blunt's manager Todd Interland was snapped **leaving the Groucho Club** with **Lily Allen** last week. Could the two be listening to