A Skynyrd memorial

By David B. Koretz

In four years the rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd almost made it from their Atlanta nightclub beginnings to the top of the music world. Their latest line-up was even scheduled to include a one-night stand headlining New York's Madison Square Garden. But last Wednesday night a twomember plane bearing Lynyrd Skynyrd and crew member/encourage crashed into a wooded area in southwest Mississippi, killing lead vocalist Ronnie Van Zant, guitarist Steve Gaines, and Steve's uncle Ronnie, a backup vocalist for the band. The tragic accident occurred only days after the release of the group's latest album, and was released by MCA records. The album sold fast, however, under the cir-
cumstances it's hard to liken to the record's success. Various materials on the album are pretty straight rock, and with the kind of music the band had been playing, you can see how it found its way into the American Top 40. However, the band had been helping out a special kind of Southern rock and roll, and the people of the area were quite successful. The band had been, and are Neil Diamond and put it, "For having been done too soon.

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