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Joel Webber, 33; N.Y. record exec formerly of R.I.

The New York Times

NEW YORK — Joel Webber, 33, vice president for artists and repertory at Island Records who was born in Providence, died Thursday at home after a heart attack associated with Marfan's syndrome, a congenital disease affecting mostly tall people. He was the son of Dr. Banice Webber of Providence and Helen Webber of San Francisco.

Webber was involved with new rock in most areas of the music business. He managed a record store in Berkeley, Calif., and was a disc jockey for radio stations in Berkeley and Hartford.

He helped start Trouser Press, a magazine devoted to British and independent rock, and was its advertising director. In 1977, he started his own independent promotion company, which helped bring such performers as Joan Jett and the Pretenders to mainstream rock radio.

He joined the New Music Seminar, an annual music business convention, as executive director in 1980, its second year. He started a record label, Uproar, which recorded a hit dance record by Dominatrix, and in 1986 he began working for Island Records, where he signed the Latin hip-hop singer Noel and released *The Uproar Tapes*, an album of performance artists including Karen Finley.

Besides his parents, he leaves a sister, Rachel Webber of New York; a brother, Daniel Webber of Hawaii; and a stepsister, Susan Webber of New York.

The funeral service will be held tomorrow at 10;45 a.m. at Riverside Memorial Chapel, 180 W. 76 St. Burial arrangements are incomplete.

WEBBER, JOEL