Town shows up at the very end of side one. Actually, "Backslidin'" isn't that radical a departure, considering all the different types of songs Joe's recorded through the years. I do wish Baker had unplugged the Nashville String Machine in spots, but there's enough updated Sixties rock-'n'-roll here to keep it loose, and even something called Everything but the Lady, a pretty effective reading of male insecurities.  A.N.

THOMPSON TWINS: Side Kicks. Thompson Twins (vocals and instrumental); instrumental accompaniment. Love on Your Side; Tears; Lies; We Are Detective; Love Lies Bleeding; and five others. ARISTA AL 6607 $6.98.

Performance: Mannered Recording: Good

There is no more controversial style in popular music today than the technopop, a.k.a. synthpop a.k.a. electrobeat (no one can agree on a name for it), of such bands as Soft Cell, the Human League, Duran Duran, Yaz, and hundreds of others. It's "sophisticated" to some, "soulless" to others; it ran, Yaz, and hundreds of others. It's "so-

softened" by Patti LaBelle, a potent irony in putting a la-la-la-la to such

GROVER WASHINGTON, JR.: The Best Is Yet to Come. Grover Washington, Jr. (soprano and tenor saxophones, saxello); Ralph MacDonald (percussion); Eric Gale (guitar); Jon Faddis, Frank Wess, Alex Foster (horns); Patti LaBelle, Bobby McFerrin (vocals); other musicians. Can You Dig It: The Best Is Yet to Come; More Than Meets the Eye; Things Are Getting Better; and four others. ELEKTRA 60215-1 $8.98, © 60215-4 $8.98.

Performance: Better than usual Recording: Very good

The easy-listening, jazz-flavored popular sounds of saxophonist Grover Washington, Jr., are often dismissed as little more than high-class Muzak. But he does come up with some delightful tunes. On "The Best Is Yet to Come" he follows the pattern we have come to expect of him, laying his solo sax over conservatively tailored arrangements laced with the telltale rhythms of funk. But there are some interesting highlights here. The title selection features Patti LaBelle in an uncommonly subdued mood, teasing her way through a

The Jensen RE530 travels in a class by itself.

Car audio performance moves much further down the road, with the new Jensen RE530 electronically tuned stereo cassette receiver. By continuously self-adjusting for signal quality, our Automatic Program Control makes excellent reception of both local and distant signals possible. And coupled with our 4-element tuner and double balanced mixer, the RE530 delivers the best FM performance on the road. The RE530 is packed with other great features, too. Like auto reverse and tape search, Dolby and Dynamic Noise Reduction systems, and Jensen's exclusive Flex-Fader® circuitry that lets you use an external amp while still utilizing the RE530 internal amplifier. It's simply the most complete package of top sound performance in car audio today. And maybe tomorrow.

©Jensen Sound Laboratories, 1983. Dolby® and Dolby System® are the registered trademarks of Dolby Laboratories, Inc. DNR® is a registered trademark of National Semiconductor Corporation.