

Picks of the Week

STEVIE WONDER (Tamla T 54235FA)

Higher Ground (3:10) (Stein & Van Stock & Black Bull, ASCAP—Wonder)

In the last couple of years Stevie has reached the highest ground an artist can attain by handeling his writing, producing, arranging, and performing. His latest entry here is further evidence of his inner genius. It's a rock and roll record culled from his new LP "Innervisions." Flip: No info available.

NEIL DIAMOND (MCA 40092)

The Last Thing On My Mind (3:31) (UA Music, ASCAP—Paxton)

From Neil's previous "Stones" album comes this classic Tom Paxton song that Diamond will turn into gold in a matter of weeks. Great vocal interpretation gives song added meaning. Flip: No info. available.

THE TEMPTATIONS (Gordy 7131)

Hey Girl (I Like Your Style) (3:29) (Stone Diamond, BMI—Whitfield)

The Temptations have decided to slow things down just for a change of pace—and what they have come up with here is very reminiscent of their earlier days when harmony played a major part in their sound. Again, they just can't miss. Flip: No info. available.

NILSSON (RCA 0039)

As Time Goes By (2:52) (WB Music, ASCAP—H. Hupfeld)

From Nilsson's current album comes this classic song that will no doubt appeal to a large MOR audience as well as to his usual pop fanatics. This one may take a lot of hard work to break, but the artists past track record should help it along. Flip: "Lullaby In Ragtime" (3:43) (Dena, ASCAP—Fine)

RASPBERRIES (Capitol 3610)

Tonight (3:25) (C.A.M.—U.S.A.—BMI—E. Carmen)

From their forthcoming "Side 3" album comes this driving Eric Carmen composition that is destined to become the group's fourth successive chart item. Raspberries will be headlining Carnegie Hall come the fall, and the audiences will be screaming to hear this one! Flip: No info. available.

JAMES BROWN (Polydor 14194)

Sexy, Sexy, Sexy (3:10) (Cited/Belinda/Unichappell, BMI—Brown)

From "Slaughter's Big Rip Off" comes another super funky James Brown hit that will naturally cross both pop and r&b barriers. There's just no end to this artist's talents or imagination as is evidenced by this new release. Flip: "Slaughter Theme" (4:00) (Dijon, BMI—Brown)

IKE & TINA TURNER (United Artists XW 298 W)

Nutbush City Limits (2:57) (Huh/Unart, BMI—T. Turner)

"Proud Mary" was the single that brought this dynamic group to national attention. Well, here's one that leaves all of their prior efforts in the dust. Absolutely sensational is the only way this future smash can be described. Has to go top 20. Flip: No info. available.

ALBERT HAMMOND (Mums 6021)

The Peacemaker (2:38) (Landers, Roberts/April, ASCAP—Hammond, Hazelwood)

One of the most talented singer/songwriters today, Albert Hammond follows his "Free Electric Band" with a Cat Stevens-ish tune that has all the potency of a top 10 single. Stations will jump right on this one—it's a winner. Flip: No info. available.

HOLLAND-DOZIER (Invictus 1254)

New Breed Kinda Woman (2:58) (Gold Forever, BMI—Holland, Dozier, Holland, Wylie)

Holland/Dozier come up with a stirring track guaranteed to top all of their previous efforts. It's another winning combination for the performer/writers who also produced the single. Watch it climb. Flip: "If You Don't Want To Be In My Life" (2:54) (same credits).

LOU REED (RCA 0054)

Vicious (2:55) (Dunbar/Oakfield Avenue, BMI—Reed)

Reed's lyric has a somewhat sarcastic tone that makes the listener take note almost immediately. Here again, he shines with a driving rocker and a great story line that should make this effort a natural hit. Flip: No info. available.

MAC DAVIS (Columbia 45911)

Kiss It And Make It Better (2:59) (Screen Gems-Columbia/Songpainter, BMI—Davis)

This is the closest Mac Davis has come to re-producing the same hit feeling as his previous smash, "Baby, Don't Get Hooked On Me." Great commercial value and a potential top 20 hit, Mac will be home free now. Flip: No info. available.

JOHNNY MATHIS (Columbia 45908)

I'm Coming Home (3:15) (Mighty Three, BMI—Bell, Creed)

First let us say that if this isn't a top 20 record, we'll all be very disappointed! Mathis has teamed up with the Thom Bell/Linda Creed combo and the results speaks for itself. This one just can't miss! Flip: No info. available.

MANFRED MANN'S EARTH BAND (Polydor 14191)

Get Your Rocks Off (2:47) (Dwarf, ASCAP—Dylan)

The magic ingredients are all here. Dylan wrote it and Manfred Mann (great Dylan interpreters) perform it. Already beginning to happen, you shouldn't let the title turn you off. This is group's strongest release in ages. Flip: No info. available.

LAURA LEE (Hot Wax 7305)

I'll Catch You When You Fall (3:25) (Gold Forever, BMI—Smith, Dunbar)

It's been a while since Laura Lee has graced the national charts, but now she returns with a powerful pop/r&b cross over record on which she sings her heart out. This one will return the artist to national prominence. Flip: No info. available.

TOM FOGERTY (Fantasy 702)

Joyful Resurrection (3:37) (Woodmont, BMI—Fogerty)

For his latest outing, Tom got together with all of the remaining members of Creedence, excepting brother John, and put together a rocking track that reminds us of the days when the group had one hit after another. This one should make a huge chart impression and establish the talented Fogerty as a soloist of great esteem. Flip: "Heartbeat" (2:11) (same credits).

AUSTIN ROBERTS (Chelsea 0053)

One Word (2:44) (Famous, ASCAP—Roberts, Welch)

Consistently on the pop and MOR charts, Austin Roberts delivers a smooth, commercial outing this time around. Co-written by Roberts and Chris Welch, this one is certain to please his many legions of followers. Should easily score lots of chart points. Flip: No info. available.

JOSE FELICIANO (RCA 0051)

Yes We Can Can (3:28) (Marsaint, BMI—Toussaint)

From Jose's "Compartment" album comes this Allen Toussaint tune first issued by The Pointer Sister and now done up in the typically fine Feliciano style. Record rocks from start to finish and should be a big one for the performer. Flip: No info. available.

FLEETWOOD MAC (Epic 11029)

Albatross (3:07) (WB Music, ASCAP—Green)

Track originally released some five years ago has just undergone renewed success in England when it hit their top 10. Label now is sure record will do the same here, in America. Hypnotic instrumental is certain to catch on all over again and will hit charts in a big way. Flip: No info. available.

THE ZOMBIES (Parrot 9695)

She's Not There (2:25) (Al Gallico, BMI—Argent)

The single that started things off for the Zombies in the 60's gets re-released by Parrot and it could happen all over again. Written by Rod Argent, single still is timely and those not familiar with the group will love it. Flip: "You Make Me Feel So Good" (2:40) (Gallico, BMI—White)

AL WILSON (Rocky Road 30073)

Show And Tell (3:28) (Fullness, BMI—Fuller)

Powerful r&b item will spark mighty sales explosion in the weeks to come as Al Wilson is well on the way to scoring giant chart points. Destined for immediate airplay. Flip: No info. available.

QUINCY JONES (A&M 1455)

Summer In The City (4:05) (Hudson Bay, BMI—Sebastian, Boone, Sebastian)

The timing seems to be just right, and Quincy is the artist who can make this happen all over again. Single is now beginning to break in many major markets and could turn into a giant summer smash. Flip: No info. available.

WHATNAUTS (GSF 6905)

Give Him Up (3:03) (Greenlight, BMI—Dahrough, Terrell)

Excellent combination of song and artist usually leads to a hit. Such is the case here. Great group vocals will spark immediate sales action in both pop and r&b markets. Flip: "I Wasn't There" (3:31) (Access/Wesaline, BMI—Kerr)

DANA COOPER (Elektra 45859)

The Singer (3:30) (Drunk Eye, BMI—Cooper)

Singer/songwriter comes with his second single effort performed in a clear, crisp style that adds sentiment to the lyric. A la James Taylor, Cooper will soon break big as his compositions are meaningful and pleasant to listen to. Flip: "Jesse James" (5:42) (same credits).

PETULA CLARK (MGM 14577)

Gratification (3:49) (Unart, BMI—Sherman & Sherman)

From the motion picture "Tom Sawyer" comes this outstanding rendition performed capably by hitmaker, Pet Clark. Strong song will get immediate pop and MOR attention. Flip: No info. available.

BOBBY GOSH (Paramount 0228)

Theme From Bang The Drum Slowly (3:59) (Famous, ASCAP—Lawrence, Hart)

From the pens of Lawrence and Hart comes the theme from the motion picture of the same name as delicately performed by a potential superstar performer. Record should win Gosh many new fans. Flip: No info. available.

Newcomer Picks

SHEPSTONE & DIBBENS (Buddah 379)

Shady Lady (3:08) (Chrysalis, ASCAP—Shepstone & Dibbens)

Newcomer act debuts with a powerfully commercial self penned tune and a great catchy hook that you'll soon be singing. Record has everything going for it and should break big on charts. Flip: No info. available.

TONY DARROW (Musicor 1476)

San Juan Dreamin' (2:42) (Pocket Full Of Tunes, BMI—Levine, Brown)

Two of the hottest songwriters in the country, Levine & Brown, who wrote the previous and current hits for Dawn are now responsible for this Tony Darrow effort. Single smacks with commercial appeal and is already getting some heavy airplay. Could click for artist. Flip: No info. available.