

**HOLLYWOOD: SMOKEY ROBINSON** (from page 38)

concisely cupid he is, "Now I lay me down to love you tonight, but will you feel the same in the morning light?"

Smokey was actually the first to write a love song an operator, one who served as a mediator between a despondent lover and the person loved. His tune, "Operator," recorded by **Brenda Holloway**, another early Motown pactee, came out nearly ten years before **Jim Croce** ever had a hit with his operator song.

Smokey, who received his nickname at age two from his Uncle Claude because he was born really light, blonde, and blue eyed, said he left the Miracles mainly because he wanted to be more with his family and less on the road performing. He said he had been seriously thinking of leaving the group shortly after the birth of his son: "I got tired of telling my son that I had to go on the road and would see him in a couple of months." He also wanted to get more into an administrative role at the company. On his new solo LP he's dedicated a tune called "Sweet Harmony" to **The Miracles**. The Miracles last album with Smokey, "1957 to 1972," recorded live at Washington, D. C.'s Carter Baron Amphitheatre last summer, is actually the soundtrack to a movie that Smokey is having edited right now. The film, of their last concert together, is being prepared for theatrical release.

Another song on the new LP, called "Smokey," is one he wrote titled "That's Just My Soul Responding." Smokey requested **Tommy Bee**, a member of an American Indian group called XIT, personally to teach him an authentic Indian chant for this song. During the session Smokey tried a few times to emulate the proper vocal inflection of the Indian. Then, all of a sudden, something took place that clearly demonstrated what a humble, modest artist Smokey really is. Realizing that it wasn't all that easy for a black to imitate an Indian, he turned to Tommy, urging, "Look man, how about you doing the chant yourself? I really like the way you do it."

Tommy, who only thought he was going to tutor Smokey, had no idea he'd actually end up singing on the same session. That's the kind of guy Smokey is. To take a good look at his face, you'd see he's unassuming in his place. And even if you look closer there's no way to trace the tracks of an inflated ego in this man. It's just not there.

While Smokey continues to write hit songs like "That's Just My Soul Responding," his fans will also keep responding to his unparalleled soulful artistry.

ron baron

**NEW YORK—CHICK COREA & RETURN TO FOREVER: A NEW TRIP**

"There are two very clear cut elements in music—mechanics and purpose. are properly aligned. The mechanical aspects of music include the form and Music can and does achieve a high quality art form when these two elements technique, the instrumentation and programming; but it is in the purpose of the music which is primary importance. It's the purpose which supplies the strongest communicative force," says **Chick Corea**.

Chick, who has established himself as a first-rate creative artist, gets up-tight when he is given a categorization stamp. Chick says, "My music in the past has been in the jazz areas, and playing jazz has been a tremendous experience; but being a true jazz artist is more an inner-thing—a more self-orientated expression. In the past, my music was created more as an experiment in sound and self than as a means (purpose) of communicating on a much broader level. My intention is to reach the whole spectrum by creating from all sources and roots. The form may range from simple to complex with different time signatures and different chords, The improvising elements are still present and the idea of spontaniety is retained. But, the development and rendering of the new creative thrust will be quite different from what I have been doing in the past."

Chick feels that his "Light As A Feather", Polydor LP has been his ultimate offering in one phase of his career. It is also a 'positive' beginning in this communicative desire.

"Realizing that it is possible to cause and control my environment positively, I began again to create a new universe of music based on my, and I feel, everyone's timeless dream to create a world where people take the responsibility, with love, to make themselves understood by others. I feel I am again in touch with people and life."

Within the past few months, Chick Corea has reorganized his group which still includes Chick on the keyboards and **Stanley Clarke** on bass. The new members are: **Bill Connors**, guitar; **Mingo Lewis**, percussion and **Steve Gadd**, drums. **Flora Purim** has rejoined her husband **Airto** who is forming his own group.

Chick and the new group recently gave their first performance at the Village Vanguard in New York City. Of course, the Vanguard was packed with Corea's fans. The rendering of his new creative ideas were starkly different from what one has come to expect from Chick Corea. Nevertheless, his genuine talent and his imaginative musical offerings found the mark with the audience. "Senor Mouse", "La Fiesta," "Sometime Ago" and "Hymn of The Seventh Galaxy" are given forceful and dramatic offerings from Chick and Return To Forever.

Chick in his new setting, has broken a categorization stamp. This is most defintely a new trip. When these talented musicians have had more time together as a unit, this new journey will be widely accepted. don drossell

**PASSING REMARKS—**

There was quite a party at the intimate L.A. restaurant, 'Lost on Larabee', last week. **David Bowie** took up all the space with his entourage of friendly oddities. Among the 2001 invited stars were **Ringo** and his wife **Maureen** and **Mel Evans**. Ringo has been in town recording a new album. It is the LP which has kindled rumors about **The Beatles** reforming. This is since **Lennon** and **Harrison** were seen at **Ringo Starr's** sessions. . . . Billion dollar baby **Alice Cooper** may get to play her act where people play with dollars; Las Vegas. It was learned that Alice may get booked into **Caesar's Palace**. . . . Two Columbia solo artists have been touring Europe singing about the weather. **Albert Hammond** sings "It Never Rains in Southern California" and **Chi Coltrane** sings "Thunder and Lightning". . . . **Jose Feliciano** has been recording again. He just recorded the **Loggins and Messina** tune, "Lady of My Heart." L & M did the back ups. . . .

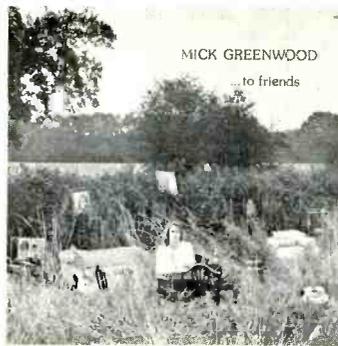
If you're looking for a great place to meet and eat, you might try the newly opened **English Pub** located right here on 7th Ave., just off 57th St. Atmosphere is quiet and remarkably English. The food's good, too.

**cash box/album reviews**

**POP BEST BETS**

**TO FRIENDS—Mick Greenwood—MCA 307**

Mick's first album really brought out the accolades. He was compared, and favorably so, to **Elton John** without being accused of the mortal sin of rip-off in any way, shape or form. For his second album, he has chosen a very even, steady approach—one that doesn't make for huge flourishes directing the listeners to particular tracks. His sense of self is spread honestly and purposely throughout the entire album, making for a solid listening experience. But give him and his group, **The Cockington All-Stars**, your mind as well as both your ears. Anything but undivided attention detracts from what it very much here in the grooves.



**HISTORY OF BRITISH BLUES, VOLUME ONE—Various Artists—Sire SAS-3701**

Most of the British blues re-issue sets in the past have been plagued by poor sound quality and a rather monotonous selection of material. This two-record set from the Famous-distributed label breaks with that tradition. Many of the cuts, especially **Rod Stewart's** track with the **Aynsley Dunbar Retaliation**—"Stone Crazy"—should see very strong FM ariplay. **Clapton**, **Stevie Winwood**, **John Mayall**, **Ginger Baker**, **Peter Green**, **Jack Bruce** and others are all here in their previous incarnations. Very appealing in every respect.



**SMILE—Bill Medley—A&M SP-3517**

The **Charles Chaplin** song which closes the album serves as the title for former **Righteous Brother Bill Medley's** latest. The majority of the tunes are aimed straight at the Top 40 audience, with full strings and vocal chorus back-up dominating the **Tom Catalano** production. There's a rocker here though that comes on like **Joe Cocker** and really exudes raw power—his own "Hello Rock N Roll." Other material from **Jim Webb**, **Mann & Weil** and **Lambert-Potter**.



**NINE SONGS—Bobby Doyle—Bell 1115**

When **Bobby** sits down at the piano, you've got to give him a lot of room. Producer **Mike Post** totally understands that and has thus allowed this keyboard/vocalist to unveil himself on his debut LP as a one-of-a-kind **Delta-tinged** purveyor of his own brand of soul-in-song. The most obvious example, (because there are so many other versions with which to compare it) is his "I Think It's Gonna Rain Today." It's as definitive a statement in the performance area as the **Randy Newman** tune is on paper. Vocal and horn arrangements follow the lines set by **Doyle**, and not any cookbook approach. "Touch Me" could prove another important cut.



**TUFANO AND GIAMMARESE—Ode—SP 77017**

They aren't easy on the tongue, but they are that and so much more on the mind. They join the ranks of male duos like **Brewer & Shipley**, **Seals & Crofts** and **Loggins & Messina**. Being the first new act to be signed by **Ode** in over a year, **Lou Adler** does especially nice things for the primarily acoustic act. **Carole King** and **David Walker** are some of the in-house guests doing their bit to make the guys feel at home. But it's the percussion of **Ms. Bobbye Hall** that really helps it all hang together. The single sounds to be "Music Everywhere," a bright upper.



**VERONIQUE SANSON—Elektra EKS-75050**

If **Karen Carpenter** were **Dusty Springfield**, **French** and the new bride of **Stephen Stills**, she might approach what **Sanson** the chanteuse is all about. Album is very lacking in production information pertaining to musicians but the lyric sheet within seems to indicate that **Vigrass & Osborne** might have had a hand in it (as they wrote or translated from French to English, many of the songs here). The bilingual **Veronique** will obviously be the subject of much press attention as a result of her recent marriage—happily, she can do a lot more than stand there and look pretty. **MORs** in particular should pay attention.

