

cashbox/singles reviews

Picks of the Week

THE TEMPTATIONS (Gordy G 7129F A)

Plastic Man (4:45) (Stone Diamond Music, BMI—N. Whitfield)

This latest entry is from the group's LP called "Masterpiece" and sounds a little like "The World is a Ghetto" as seen from "Cloud Nine" by a "Runaway Child" named "Shaft." Another words it reminds us of a hit. "Plastic Man" is molded for success.

THE SWEET (Bell 45-361)

Blockbuster (3:12) (Chinnichap/Rak, ASCAP—Chinn, Chapman)

"Little Willy" took almost a year to break, but now that it's gold, everyone is convinced that The Sweet are something extra special: Their follow up single is exactly what the title suggests, only this time, it'll break immediately. More gold on the way! Flip: No info. available.

CANDI STATON (Fame XW 256 W)

Something's Burning (3:09) (Screen Gems/Columbia, BMI—M. Davis)

It's power plus as Candi Station delivers what will ultimately become her biggest selling single to date. Mac Davis composition is given an incredible r&b performance and programmers will delight in playing it. Flip: "It's Not Love (But It's Not Bad)" (3:09) (Tree, BMI—Martin, Cochran)

STAPLE SINGERS (Stax 0165)

Be What You Are (4:58) (East/Memphis, BMI—Banks, Jackson, Hampton)

The Staple Singers invite all to be what you are. As for themselves—they're as funky as can be and right back on the hit path. Tune was taken from their forthcoming album of the same name. Flip: "I Like The Things About Me" (5:52) (Staples, BMI—Stubbs, Staples)

LOU REED (RCA 0964)

Satellite Of Love (2:53) (Oakfield Ave; BMI—Reed)

Follow up to Reed's incredibly successful "Walk On The Wild Side" is another strange effort that should attract a varied crowd of record buyers. But rest assured, this too stands a great commercial shot at scoring many chart points. Flip: No info. available.

THE HEYWOODS (Family 0918)

All Over The World (2:44) (Double Diamond/Unichappell, BMI—Madera, Sandler)

A smash is a smash! !! With proper exposure, this record could soar into the national top 10 before anybody knows what's happening. Having already had a minor hit, Bo Donaldson and The Heywoods return with an incredible song that could be one of the year's biggest. A must play record. Flip: "Just For You" (2:26) (Layne, ASCAP—Kyle)

DEEP PURPLE (Warner Bros. 7710)

Smoke On The Water (3:48) (Hec, ? ?—Purple)

From the supergroups "Machine Head" album comes a track that is already burning up the national charts. It's been many years since Deep Purple have really had a substantial single hit, but this will change it all. Written by entire group. Flip: No info. available.

DENNIS YOST & CLASSICS IV (MGM South 7016)

Save The Sunlight (2:50) (Low-Sal, BMI—Buie, Cobb, Lee)

Beautiful ballads have become his trademark, and once again, Dennis Yost and the Classics IV deliver an outstanding song geared towards either pop or MOR programming. This song really grows on you if you give it a chance. Flip: "Make Me Believe It" (Low-Sal, BMI—Buie, Hammond, Nix)

MICKEY NEWBURY (Elektra 45853)

Sunshine (3:43) (Acuff-Fose, BMI—Newbury)

Already getting extensive top 40 programming, this Mickey Newbury song will be one of the years most popular. A song that builds both dynamically and lyrically, Newbury has topped all of his previous efforts. Continued airplay will guarantee this disk a top 20 position. Flip: No info. available.

STORIES (Kama Sutra 577)

Brother Louie (3:55) (Buddah, ASCAP—Brown, Wilson)

Stories dynamically reappears with their most powerful chart contender to date and a solid entity which will definitely appeal to a vast listening audience. The r&b oriented tune has that special combination of performance and production to leave no doubt that this one is a definite Top 10 contender. Strong listener reaction is a sure shot. Flip: no info. available.

PAUL DAVIS (Bang 702)

Mississippi River (3:17) (Web IV/Malaco, BMI—Davis)

Paul Davis already has "Come On, Honey" and "Boogie Woogie Man" tucked neatly under his belt of hit records. Now comes an inspiring new composition that will keep his string alive. Choice programming for all top 40's and MOR's across the country. This one will surprise lots of people; Flip: "Broken Hearted And Free" (2:40) (Web IV, BMI—Davis)

BETTY WRIGHT (Alston 4617)

It's Hard To Stop (2:53) (Sherlyn, BMI—Reid, Clarke, Wright)

Funky churning dance item will cause quite a sensation for Betty's many avid followers who will snap this one right up. Watch this mover jump onto r&b charts in no time at all. Flip: No info. available.

CAROL HALL (Elektra 45850)

The Wah Wah Song (3:14) (Daniel, BMI—Hall)

At first you might be slightly disturbed at the 'looseness' of this new Carol Hall single. But by the time you've heard it twice through, you'll be delighted with its charm and most probably, with its comforting style. There will be no stopping this record. Flip: No info. available.

SIR DOUGLAS QUINTET (Atlantic 2965)

Nitty Gritty (3:04) (Douglas Sahn Music, BMI—Sahn)

When you get down to New York City, you get down to the Nitty Gritty . . . thus the message of this latest Doug Sahn effort that sparkles with its very own sincerity and smoothness. Easy record for top 40 programming and a likely candidate for a hit. Flip: "I'm Just Tired Of Getting Burned" (2:40) (same credits)

DON COVAY (Mercury 73385)

I Was Checkin' Out, She Was Checkin' In (3:45) (Ragmop, BMI—Covay)

Soul personified as Don Covay delivers the sad story of cheating lovers. Just one good listening is enough to tell you that this disk is well on its way to becoming an r&b classic. Flip: No info. available.

BIG STAR (Ardent 2904)

Don't Lie To Me (2:43) (Koalo/Birdees, ASCAP—Bell, Chilton)

Big Star should achieve prominent top 40 exposure via their latest and most impressive offering to date. Fine up tempo tune is a natural crowd pleaser—and that means plenty of sales, too. Flip: "Watch The Sunrise" (3:12) (same credits)

AFRIQUE (Mainstream 5542) (2:50)

ALL DYECTIONS (Buddah 362) (3:29)

MICHAEL OLATUNJI (Paramount 0222) (3:00)

NAIROBI AFRO BAND (Town Hall 777) (4:10)

MANU DIBANGO (Fiesta 51-199) (4:30)

SIMON KENYATTA TROUPE (Avco 4620) (3:03)

SOUL MAKOSSA (Rayven Music, BMI—M. Dibango)

African rocker that is taking New York by storm gets powerful rendering by many artists in what has to be one of the most exciting cover fights ever. Particularly in this case, each version is excellent so we won't even attempt to call a winner. Sensational item for Juke box programmers.

Newcomer Picks

TRIBE (ABC 11366)

Koke (Part 1) (2:45) (ABC/Dunhill, BMI—D. Ervin)

Group debuts with sensational dance item that drives from beginning to end. Great scat vocals coupled with pounding rhythms will put this one well over the top and on its way as one of the biggest instrumental hits of the year. Flip: Part 11 (2:51) (same credits)

RICK WAKEMAN (A&M 1430)

Anne (3:08) (Almo, ASCAP—Hopkins, Wakeman)

From Rick's highly successful solo LP, "The Six Wives Of Henry V111," comes this powerful instrumental at a time when instrumentals are the thing to do. Moog's galore, coupled with Wakeman's expertise on anything that has a keyboard should make for a smash hit record. Flip: "Catherine" (3:20) (Almo, ASCAP—Wakeman)

IRON CROSS (Spark 08)

Little Bit O' Soul (2:25) (Southern, ASCAP—Carter, Lewis)

Track that soared to the top 10 position by the Music Explosion is given a fine new interpretation for the 70's by newcomer group Iron Cross. Record shacks with a super commercial feel that should see it happen big all over again. Flip: "Sunshine" (2:47) (Southern, ASCAP—Hill, Saunders)

THE JAMES BOYS (Penny Farthing 55-002)

Over And Over (2:19) (Page Full Of Hits, ASCAP—D. Boone, R. McQueen)

If you're looking for a great hook-your search has ended. This song has got them all. One after another, and they're all sensational. Young newcomer duo won't let up as record gets better and better with each listening. Definite top 10 potential here. Worthy of much airplay. Flip: No info. available.

AFRIQUE (Mainstream 5542)

Soul Makossa (2:50) (Rayven, BMI—Dibango)

African rocker that is taking New York by storm gets powerful new rendering by Afrique. All indications are that the noise could spread throughout the country. Sensational dance item could easily be charted. Flip: No info. available.

THE NEW CACTUS BAND (Atco 6927)

Daddy Ain't Gone (3:15) (ATM/Pinera, ASCAP—Pinera, Webb)

The New Cactus Band carries on in the fine rock 'n roll tradition of the original group with a catchy yet meaningful song that is perhaps the group's most promising to date. Could well establish band as top 40 hitmakers. Flip: "Blue Gypsy Woman" (3:15) (Sticky Thorn, ASCAP—Hitchings)

JOHN ENTWISTLE'S RIGOR MORTIS (MCA 40066)

Roller Skate Kate (3:43) (Track, BMI—Entwistle)

What we have here is John Entwistle's new touring group called Rigor Mortis debuting some fine novelty material from their forthcoming album, "Set In." Entwistle plans to tour his new group with The Who, so there could be some built in sales action here. Flip: "Made In Japan" (3:43) (same credits)

THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD (Laurie 3607)

Down By The Place (2:47) (Piedmont, ASCAP—Riolo, Bordonara)

First there was "Downtown," and then came Creedence's "Down On The Corner." Now, Yellow Brick Road tell us about another potential hangout—"Down By The Place." Commercial enough for all top 40 formats across the country. Flip: "Roo Roo" (3:25) (S&J, ASCAP—Mykiety, Piscatello)

ROY C. (Mercury 73391)

Don't Blame The Man (3:14) (Unichappell/Phonogram/Johnson-Hammond, BMI—Hammond)

With a method of storytelling very similar to Joe Tex, Roy C. stands up for men's lib with a tune that blames the women for a change. Very timely story that will interest everyone. Flip: "I'm Bustin' My Rocks" (2:43) (same credits)

THE FATBACK BAND (Perception 526)

Street Dance (3:15) (Clita/Bradley, BMI—King, Flipping, Curtis) **Goin' To See My Baby** (3:20) (same Credits)

Strange as it may seem, either side of this disk could explode group to national prominence. "Street Dance" is a funky instrumental that almost immediately invites dancing, while the flip side is more jazz flavored, but it grows and grows on you. Play this and see what we mean.