

r&b ingredients

Singles and LPs have been movin' on up this past week. The amount of product is picking up at an incredible rate, but even though there is quantity the quality is still top-notch.

Jazz is making a big splash these days and should be watched closely. Some of the hot new product that could make inroads heavily on the charts include **Al DiMeola's** new one on **Epic** "Land Of The Midnight Sun." Al who plays with **Chick Corea** has done an exciting and interesting LP in his first solo effort. **Merl Saunders** and **Aunt Monk** have come up with a cover that's too cold. His latest on **Fantasy** is entitled "You Can Leave Your Hat On." Check this one out as it's outrageously super fine.

RCA has again come up with two fine jazz LPs. **Weldon Irvine's** "Sinbad" and **Toshiko Akiyoshi** and **Lew Tabackin's Big Band's** "Long Yellow Road." Also jazz freaks should also be happy to know that their main man **Miles Davis** has a new two-record set entitled "Agharta." This one will definitely be a monster for the legend in his own time.

The **Coasters** have signed on with **Wilson Pickett's** label Wicked Records. The group is now in the studios, so look forward to a single by the "Charlie Brown" guys shortly. . . . **Bob Crewe** is remixing "Lady Marmalade" for the Eleventh Hour's new LP. He made the decision due to the fact that there are new members in the group so the sound is nothing like the original. He is also including an updated version of the old **Mitch Ryder** hit "Sock It To Me, Baby," in a disco style. . . . Look out for a hot new group to be coming out of **RCA**. They are called **Robbie Hill's Family Affair** and they will be produced by **Cuba Gooding** and the **Main Ingredient's** production company. . . . **Capitol Records** has got the **Sun** and this new group should help spread a lot of sunshine around this winter with their debut LP entitled "Live On, Dream On." These guys are into hot rock and roll. . . . Gary Gotham called in from New York City to say that so many good hot disco records are coming out that he can't get enough. Hot new ones Gary is excited about are "Dance, Dance, Dance" by **Charlie Calello** on **Ariola America**, "Living In Ecstasy" by **Ecstasy** and "Ballin' The Jack" by **Camp Galore**, both on **D&M Sound**. These tunes should explode out of the discos and right on to the top of the charts. . . . The **O'Jays** have just released another single that should put them back in the number one spot again quickly with the release of "Livin' For The Weekend." They recently set an attendance record for the largest indoor r&b show in the city of Cincinnati while on their "Family Reunion" tour. The **Commodores** and **Blue Magic** were also on the show. The O'Jays were so enthused they did two encores. The Commodores are also very hot as "Sweet Love" is nearing the number one spot on the charts. My spies around the country are reporting that the guys from Tuskegee are smokin'!



MONDAY AFTER — Buddah recording group Monday After came up from Philadelphia to discuss the launching of their debut single, "Merry-Go-Round," written by group members Milton Tennant and Tony Smith. Pictured are (seated, l to r): Raymond Vicks, Gregory Murray, Tony Smith, Milton Tennant, Rufus Thorne of the group, and Buddah vice president and general manager Lewis Merenstein; (standing, l to r): Alan Lott, director of r&b operations; Leroy Roebuck, manager of Monday After; John (The Monster) Davis, producer; and Tom Cossie, vice president and director of pop promotion.

Chocolate Milk who had a monster with "Action Speaks Louder Than Words" have released a new LP entitled "Chocolate Milk." Look for their new single "How About Love" to also be a killer. . . . **BRC Records** also looks to have a hit on their hands with an artist named **Ronnie Limar**. Ronnie's latest single is entitled "Naturally Stoned," and it is one to watch. . . . **L.T.D.**, which stands for "love, togetherness and devotion" are currently at work on their fourth album for **A&M Records**. The LP is being produced by the **Mizell** brothers and is being recorded at the **Sound Factory** in L.A. LP is expected for release at the end of March.

Look for a new single by the **Consumer Rapport** in the very near future. This group had the hit "Ease On Down The Road," which was one of the monster dance records of last year. The group's next single will be entitled "Everybody Join Hands." Also there is an LP coming by the group tentatively entitled "Ladies And Gentlemen Presenting The Consumer Rapport." . . . **Albert King**, the old blues master has come up with another winner. His latest single release on **Utopia**, distributed by **RCA** is entitled "Cadillac Assembly Line." It's bad and Albert also has followed it up with a new LP entitled "Truckload Of Lovin'." Watch this one zoom. . . . **Jeff Perry** will be releasing a new single very shortly. Jeff who records for **Arista** will be releasing "Unforgettable Person," as his next single. . . . The **Choice Four** and **Faith, Hope & Charity** are working on a LP together which will carry the bicentennial flavor. More details on this later.

Bumps Doogan called in to say that one of the hottest things happening in the discos right now is a tune by **Miz Davis** on **Now Records** entitled "Sing A Happy Funky



CELEBRATE — Chaka Khan is shown above celebrating after her spirited performance at the Forum with the Spinners. Rufus and Chaka's latest LP "Rufus Featuring Chaka Khan" just went gold making it three in a row for the talented quintet. Shown above enjoying the festivities are Otis Smith, v.p. of ABC Records; Chaka; Jerry Rubinstein, chairman of the board of ABC Records and Kevin Murphy, keyboardist for Rufus.

Song." Bumps said this one can't miss. . . . Reggie Banks, Detroit's disco genius called to say that "Disco Hop," by the **Third World Band** is happening.

International Record Distributing Associates have got three new singles that could be up and up smashes. The **Projections** have a single entitled "Let It Flow" on **BL&J Records**. . . . **Willie Fisher** has a possible two-sided hit with "Put Your Lovin' On Me" and "Take Time To Know Her" on **Tigress Records** and **Brick's** "Music Matic," on **Main Street** already is picking up heavy airplay. . . . **Ramsey Lewis** has released "Don't It Feel Good" as his most recent single. The cut is also the title cut of his latest on **Columbia**. . . . Other hot new Columbia product includes "Hurt So Bad" by the **Philly Devotions** and "I Love To Love (But My Baby Loves To Dance)" by **Tina Charles**. . . . **KC and the Sunshine Band** are hoping to win a Grammy this year, but if they don't, they will next year with the release on their latest single "Queen Of Clubs." It is the monster's monster and is so hot that it is hard to believe the sound KC and the band get. It's too cold.

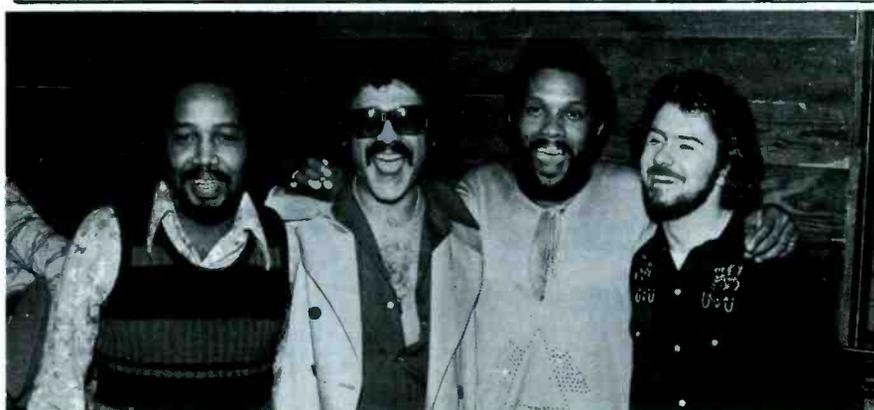
Natalie Cole is in town this week for her much awaited gig at the Concerts At The Grove. Natalie knocked 'em out the last time she was there and this one should be even more outstanding. . . . Her new LP is expected very shortly from **Capitol**. . . . Also heard that **Stevie Wonder** has delivered his LP to **Motown**, but no word as yet to a delivery date. **Freddie Perrin** will be the producer of the next **Tavares** LP. Freddie is the one that did such an excellent job with the **Miracles'** "City Of Angels" LP. O.J. Redding, my man in Florida, called in to say that he caught the **Sister Sledge** show at the **Bachelor's Three** last week. O.J. said the show was so hot that he expects them back in Florida as soon as they have another break from school. . . . **Papa John Creach** is going on six week tour which will cover most of the east, south, Montreal and Toronto at the end of this month. Papa John has a disco hit on his hands entitled "Joyce."

Buck Reingold, v.p and general manager of **Chelsea Records**, has announced that **Cliff Gorov** has been promoted from within the company to assistant national r&b crossover director. Gorov will work under **Chris Clay**. . . . Trombonist **Raul de Souza**, who records on the **Milestone** label, was hit by a taxicab in L.A. last week and suffered a broken leg which prevented him from doing some dates with **Sonny Rollins**. We at **CB** hope Raul is on his feet real soon. The hottest r&b record in the country is "Disco Lady" by **Johnnie Taylor**. Found out that the title of Johnnie's upcoming LP will be entitled "Eargasm." . . . LP will be out in the very near future.

ABC Records has three hot new single releases. **Clarence Carter** has got another dandy tune entitled "Dear Abby." Clarence's drawl will knock you out on this one. The **Fifth Dimension** have a new one out produced and arranged by **Jimmy Webb** entitled "Walk Your Feet In The Sunshine." And look for "Lady Marmalade" by the **Braas Fever**. ABC has also come up with one of the hottest dance records in a while entitled "Disco-fied" by the **Rhythm Heritage**. Every cut is solid and heavy. The airplay on this is going to be hectic. **Cash Box** wants to offer its deepest condolences on learning of the death of **William 'Boy' Brown** formerly of **KJET** in Beaumont and more recently **Motown**. William was real record man and will be missed by who knew him.

Barry White won every lady's heart in America, but now **Kellee Patterson**, the sultry gal from Indiana is going to win every man's heart with the release of her latest single entitled "I'm Gonna Love You Just A Little More, Baby." The single is on **Shadybook Records** and this record is so hot & sexy that it has been banned in Boston. Watch for this one to rocket on all the charts, pop, r&b, mor. Kellee Patterson is going to be one of the new sexy mamas of the seventies. . . . That's soul.

jess levitt



ROY IS HOT — Roy Ayers has a hot new LP entitled "Mystic Voyage" on Polydor Records. Shown above helping Roy celebrate after his recent appearance at the L.A. Starwood are (from left) Rick Holmes, KBCA-FM, Emiel Petrone, Phonodisc's western branch manager, Roy, and Lynn Adam, Polydor's west coast promotion manager.