

**r&b ingredients**

Music is getting funkier as we progress into the first quarter of the bicentennial. The heavier disco sound is toning down a bit and becoming more mellow. Also funky music is back. We're getting back to the basics and it's nice to see music cook and groove. Get down, get down and do your thing.

Probably the hottest record to come out in awhile is now available. **Bloodstone's** new single on **London** "Do You Wanna Do A Thing," is pure dy-no-mite funk. When **'Big' Harry Williams** shouts "Do You Wanna Do A Thing," it will send goose bumps all over your body. The single was recorded at the **Total Experience Sound Studios** and was produced by **Bert deCoteaux** and **Tony Silvester**. With this release with **Big Harry Williams, Jr., Charles Love, Charles MacCormick and Willis Draffen, Jr.** The Bloodstone have the monster of the year on their hands. Don't be surprised if you see this turn #1 and gold lickity split.

**Eddie Kendricks** at the **Total Experience** last week was a smash. Eddie's thing is really together and when **Melvin Franklin, Glenn Leonard** and **Richard Street** of the current **Temptations** came on stage to join Eddie the show became an instant party. Everybody in the crowd got up to boogie when they did their classic hit "Get Ready." Heard from a reliable source that **Eddie, David Ruffin** and the **Temptations** may soon be seen together on the concert trail. This would be an incredible package. The show would be triple dy-no-mite.



**MELLOW MANDRILL** — Shown above are Ric Wilson md and Claude (Coffee) Cave when the two members of Mandrill recently appeared on the television show "Saturday" hosted by Cal Burton at left. The group is currently on tour in support of their most recent LP "Beast From The East" and their latest single "Disco Lyppo."

Hot news on the street is that **Aretha Franklin** is going to do a special appearance March 28 at the **New Bethel Baptist Church** in Detroit where her father and brother are pastors. Aretha is going to do her thing to help raise funds for the building of a new church. . . . **Ashford & Simpson** who knocked everybody out at the **California Soul Show** in New York a couple weeks back are set to appear at the **Roxy** in the very near future. The cute couple have a smash record on their hands, "It'll Come, It'll Come, It'll Come." Also **Warners** has just released their new LP entitled "Come As You Are." . . . Other hot new **Warner** product includes the new **First Choice LP** "So Let Us Entertain You." Also be on the lookout for LPs by **William D. Smith** "A Good Feelin'," and **Lee Garrett** "Heat For The Feets" . . . Gary Gotham called in from New York to say that the hottest thing happening this week in the discos is a new smash by **Ecstasy, Passion & Pain** featuring **Barbara Roy** entitled "Touch & Go." It's a stone-smash.

**United Artists** is hot to trot these days. They have the hits brewing and cooking. **The Brass Construction LP** is #1 with a bullet this week. The Brass Construction single "Movin'" is also moving so fast that it should be #1 shortly. Other hot things happening for UA include "Hustle On Up" by **Hidden Strength**, "Momma" by **Ronnie Laws** on **Blue Note** "Disco Lyppo" by **Mandrill**, "Daylight" by **Bobby Womack** and "Moonlight Serenade" by **The New Ventures** . . . My spies in the east say **Smokey Robinson** is tearing em' up on his east coast tour. People cannot seem to get enough of Smokey doing material off his latest **Motown** release "Smokey's Family Robinson" . . . The **Crusaders** are currently working to finish their new LP before heading for the **Montreaux Festival**.

Rudy Moreno, my Latin salsa spy in central California called in to say that two records are creating havoc in the agricultural center of the world. "Deseo De Ti Amor" by **Robertha** on **Fama Records** is the #1 record in the area. Also "La Salsa" by **Charo** on **Capitol** is turning everybody on to hustle on up . . . "Do You Wanna Boogie" is going to be the next single by the **Brecker Brothers**. Their new LP "Back To Back" is a killer for **Arista** and this new single should go even higher than "Sneakin' Up Behind You." Also the guys are preparing to come out to the west coast for some dates real soon . . . "We'll Be Together Always" is the title of the new **Mike & Bill** single on **Arista** which should also be out pronto.

One of the hottest jazz things to come along in a while is out and creating noise wherever it's played. "Tambourine" by **John Tropea** is a killer. John has been a top studio man for years and is currently featured on the following current LPs: **Paul Simon, Laura Nyro, David Ruffin, Stylistics, Van McCoy, Blue Magic** and **Harry Chapin**. The LP "Tropea" is on **Marlin Records**, distributed by **T.K.** The LP was produced by **Deodato** and features John on guitar along with the **Brecker Brothers, Rick Marotta, Will Lee, Don Grolnick, Larry Fast, David Spinoza, David Sanborn** and **Rubens Bassina**. A sure-fire winner.

**Jon Lucien** dropped by the **Cash Box** offices last week to fill us in on some recent activities. He made it up here early in the morning which was surprising; he had played two shows at the **Roxy** the night before, on the bill with **Miss Sarah Vaughan**. The show was a smash, the two performers meshed well. So well, in fact, you knew the booking was no coincidence; Miss Vaughan requested Lucien's presence. Cur-

rently putting the finishing touches on his forthcoming **Columbia LP**. Lucien is working on a new sound. "I put down the rhythm tracks myself," he said, "with a rhythm box and bass, along with piano and clavinet." New York studio musicians added the horns, and the few instruments Lucien doesn't play. "I don't like to do the same thing over and over," Jon said, and his performance at the **Roxy** last week was shot through with that kind of spontaneous spirit and energy that drove the audiences, especially the ladies, into a frenzy. . . . **Bobby "Blue" Bland** and **B.B. King** were at **Concerts at the Grove** last week together to record a new LP. The show was hot, hot, hot. The 'Blue' and 'B.B.' were so hot and mellow that two older and mature women got up and really got down. It looked like a boo-ga-loo contest between **Blaze Starr** and **Sally Rand** . . . **Bob Brock** formerly of the **Edward Windsor Wright Corporation** has now opened his own office. It's called **Bob Brock Communications** and he is located at 1022 Palm Avenue, Los Angeles 90069. Bob's office phone is (213) 659-5153.

**All Platinum** is cooking. The **Chuck Jackson LP** "Needing You, Wanting You," is a killer. Future killers for All Platinum include new LPs by **Solomon Burke** "Back To My Roots," "Rat City In Blue," by a new group called the **Good Rats**. Also All Platinum is releasing the soundtrack from the movie "Patti." Also watch out for new singles by **Sylvia** "L.A. Sunshine," "Dance, Dance, Dance" by **Shirley & Company** plus new singles and LPs from **Retta Young, The Dells** and **Etta James** in the very near future.

**Stanley Turrentine** is in the **Fantasy** studios along with **Orrin Keepnews** working on his new LP which is expected for an early summer release. Joining Stanley on this LP are **Joe Sample** on keyboards, **Harvey Mason** on drums and **Lee Rittenaur** on guitar. "Happy Music" by the **Blackbyrds** also on Fantasy looks to be a monster record for the talented guys from Howard University.

Bumps Doogan the main disco machine in L.A. called in to say that "A Fifth of Beethoven" by **Walter Murphy and the Big Apple Band** on **Private Stock** is the next monster to come out of the discos . . . Also watch out for **Mel Carter's** new single "Dancing for Dimes." It will be released shortly on **Private Stock** . . . **Gamble and Huff** made an appearance on **Tom Snyder's Tomorrow** show last week. Kenny and Leon were articulate and presented some highly informative news about the music industry . . . **Oliver Sain**, who records for **Abet** and has two smash records on the charts "Party Hearty," and "She's A Disco Queen," was in Detroit last week making appearances and performing. Oliver joined **Natalie Cole**, the double Grammy winner for a show taped at the **Masonic Auditorium** in Detroit on **WGPR-TV** channel 62. Oliver, besides performing on the show crowned a lovely miss, "Miss Disco Queen." In return they crowned Oliver, the Disco King. Reggie Banks, my main man in Detroit called in to say that Oliver has a dy-no-mite show. Reggie caught Oliver and his group at **Henry's Lounge**.

More hot releases are due from **T.K.** very shortly. **Betty Wright's** new LP is entitled "Explosion." **Wilson Pickett's** new one will be entitled "Chocolate Mountain." Also expect releases in the next month from **Timmy Thomas, Little Beaver, Clarence Reid, Latimore, Gwen McCrae** and **Swamp Dogg**. Hot and new upcoming groups under the T.K. wing include **Miami, Snooky Dean, Ruby Wilson, Raw Soul Express, Foxy,** and **Sax Kari**. More good music on its way from Florida . . . The **Ohio Players** are in the **Paragon Studios** recording their next LP. No title or any word yet about the release date . . . Supposedly it will be out in the middle of April. By then "Fopp" should be #1 . . . Heard a rumor that the **Greyhound Bus Company** is not happy that **Mercury's** sensational reggae group "Greyhound" has the same name . . . Also be on the lookout for new LPs by **Coke Escovedo** and the **Dells** real soon . . . **Chelsea Records** has got the hits. "Hot Lava," by **Disco Tex and the Sex-O-Lettes** is a monster along with "It's Been A Long Time" by **Snuff 'n' Ramjett**, and "Kiss And Make Up," by **William DeVaughan**. Chelsea has come up with an r&b answer to "Junkfood Junkie." It's "Can't Survive Without My Sweets" by **New York City**. Also look for "You Broke My Face" by **DiFosco** and "Keep On Rollin'" by **Ujima**, to be sleepers of the year . . . Received reports that the **Jackson Five** were a smash in Manila recently. The guys did six SRO shows in a row and also received special gold medallions from the first lady of the Philippines. Mrs. Marcos for their musical contributions to the people of the Philippines. Also the guys did a television show in Mexico City which was broadcast to over 35 million people in Latin America.

**Sly Stone** has a new single out on **Epic** entitled "Crossword Puzzle," off his "High On You," LP . . . The **Manhattans** also have a new single out entitled "Kiss And Say Goodbye," on **Columbia**. The **Earth, Wind & Fire** single is entitled "Can't Hide Love." More gold for them . . . The **Fania All Stars**, the hot Latin/salsa group will present their rhythmical sounds in **Madison Square Garden** March 20 for the fifth anniversary "Our Latin Thing" concert. The All-Stars include **Johnny Pacheco, Ray Barretto, Willie Colon, Robertson Roena, Cheo Feliciano, Ismael Miranda, Hector Lavoe, Ismael Quintana, Santos Colon, Yomo Toro, Pupi Legarretta** and **Bobby Valentin**. Special guest stars include **Mongo Santamaria** and his orchestra. **Bobby Rodriguez Y La Compania**. Also watch out for the new **Jerry Masucci**-produced full length feature film, "Salsa," which will be released in April . . . While **Gladys Knight** is up in Alaska filming "Pipe Dreams," the **Pips** have begun working in L.A. on the soundtrack and title song which will be a new LP for **Buddah** to be released later in the year . . . **RCA** has come up with some more hits. New hot singles out include "Instant Love," by the **Main Ingredient**, "Keep On Doin' It," by the **Memphis Horns**, "Hey What's That Dance You're Doing," by the **Choice Four**, written and produced by **Van McCoy**, and "The Big Hurt" by the **Front Runners** on **Tom Cat** distributed by **RCA** . . . **Kessler-Grass Management** have announced the signing of **Tyrone Davis** to an exclusive management contract. Tyrone is very hot now with his monster single and LP "Turning Point." **Richard Pryor** received a Grammy for the best comedy LP of 1975. That makes it two in a row for Richard. Besides coming up with hot comedy LPs Richard is becoming very hot in films. Richard will be seen in a number of major films in the near future. First up is **Universal's** "Bingo Long and the Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings." Also he will have a cameo role in **Universal's** "Car Wash," and with **Gene Wilder** in **20th Century Fox's** "Silver Streak," directed by **Arthur Heller**. Pryor will also star in "Which Way Is Up?" a **Steve Krantz** production for **Universal** and will have the title role in an all-black version of "Cyrano de Bergerac," a **Brut Production** for **20th Century Fox**.

Jazz has come to **Warners** and the releases are expected very shortly. **Rahsaan Roland Kirk's** new LP for **Warners** is entitled "Return of the 5000 Lb. Man." **David "Fathead" Newman's** new one is entitled "Mr. Fathead." **Alice Coltrane's** LP is entitled "Eternity." **George 'Bad' Benson's** new LP is entitled "Breezin'." **Antonio Carlos Jobim's** latest is "Urubu," and "Starbright," is the debut LP of jazz guitarist **Pat Martino**. Also guitarist **Miroslav Vitous** has a new release entitled "Magical Shepherd" which was produced by **David Rubinson**. These should zoom up the charts upon release . . . that's soul . . .

jess levitt