

r&b ingredients

R&B is hot, hot, hot. The charts are loaded with great singles and LPs. As we roll into spring the r&b thing continues to get stronger and stronger. New artists, new songs and new hits. Watch for many more records crossing over on both sides because the new music is fusing.

The **Chambers Brothers** (Lester, George, Willie and Joe) and drummer **Gregg Dickerson** dropped by the **Cash Box** office last week. They have a brand new trip full of energy which they will definitely demonstrate when they release their new single on **Chelsea** in late April. The guys said they have paid their dues and are rollin' up their sleeves to get into the thick of things again. Lester said that their music will be a combination of funk and gospel, making it total body music. Willie mentioned that they plan to create some good music which they hope will touch people's hearts and minds. They also said that the disco thing has kept many artists like themselves from making decent music and what they hope to do is change all that. They are currently in the studio, but afterwards plan to hit the road back east for some concert dates. The Chambers Brothers' "Time" has come again.



GINO & DINAH — A&M recording artist Gino Vannelli recently made an appearance on the show to perform material from his latest LP "Storm At Sunup," and to discuss his involvement with the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, his hometown. Shown above from left to right are Gino, Dinah and James Earl Jones, discussing his latest film "River Niger." The music for the film was written and performed by U.A. recording artists War.

20th has released the **Eleventh Hour's** new LP "Hollywood Hot" and it is hot, hot, hot... **DeLite** is also onto the pulse of the dancing scene with the release of "Hustle Hits." Artists featured on the LP include **Kool & The Gang**, **Gary Toms Empire**, **Crown Heights Affair**, **Yambu** and the **Kay Gees**. Hustle on up... **Gloria Lynne** put on a fabulous show at the **Starwood** last week. With her four-piece group she really knocked everybody out with her stirring performance. Her version of "I Can See Clearly Now" was too cold. Gloria has a new LP out on **ABC/Impulse** entitled "I Don't Know How To Love Him"... The **New Ventures** LP on **UA** is going to create more heat for them than the "Theme From Hawaii 5-0." The new single is "Moonlight Serenade" off their "Rocky Road" LP... **Correction from last week** — the name of the single is "Whenever You Go" on **Abet**.

Leon Haywood's new single on **20th** is "Sirokin"... **Papa John Creach's** second LP for **Buddah** is "Rock Father," with new single entitled "Travelin' On"... **Tyrone Davis'** next single on **Dakar** will be "It's So Good To Be With You"... **Fantasy** will be releasing a new LP by saxophonist **Joe Henderson**, "Black Miracle," produced by **Joe and Orrin Keepnews**, with arrangements done by **Joe and George Duke**. Sidemen include **Ron Carter**, **Harvey Mason**, **Bill Summers**, **Lee Ritenour**, **Oscar Brashear**, **Snooky Young**, **George Bohannon**, **Don Waldrop** and **Hadley Caliman**... Also look for a new LP by **Roger Glenn** on **Prestige**, produced by **Larry and Fonce Mizell**, and scheduled for early summer release... **Alphonso Johnson** has a new LP out on **Epic** that should create noise in jazz circles entitled "Mocnshadows." Featured with **Alphonso** are **Patrice Rushen**, **Flora Purim**, **Lee Ritenour**, **Chris Bond**, **Airto**, **Gary Bartz**, **Alphonse Mouzon**, **Bennie Maupin** and others. Watch for it to climb.

Linda Hopkins, who has been thrilling audiences all across the country with her performances in "Me & Bessie," has released an LP on **Columbia** from the Broadway show that captures all the excitement of the live performance. It is a beautiful tribute for those who remember the legendary **Bessie Smith**... **Gary Gotham** and **Reggie Banks** both called last week to say that "Love Really Hurts Without You" by **Alex Brown** on **Chelsea** is a stone smash and is really burning up the discos.

"Sing A Happy Funky Song" by **Miz Davis** on **Now Records** is happening all across the country. It's a killer... **Van McCoy** has a hot new single on **H&L Records**. "Night Walk"... Another hot item is **Joe Tex's** latest on **Dial**, "Have You Ever"... "Do You Wanna Do A Thing" by **Bloodstone** is smokin' wherever it's being played... **Rhythm Heritage** have followed up their last single, "Theme From S.W.A.T.," with another TV theme monster called "Baretta's Theme"... One of the prettiest tunes to be released recently is "I'm Not In Love" by **Dee Dee Sharp**. Look for it to hit the top of the charts real soon... **Isaac Hayes'** latest single is entitled "Rock Me Easy Baby." It is another great one from the **Chocolate Chip**... **BooBi Humphrey** has released a very mellow and exciting single for **Blue Note** entitled "Jno Esta"... **Osibisa** on **Island** also have a hit with their latest release "Sunshine Day"... **Earth, Wind & Fire** have been offered a million dollars for a 35-city U.S. tour by **Gemini Artists Management** on behalf of **Playboy Enterprises** and **Sagittarius Productions**... **Robin Kenyatta** will make an appearance at the **Louis Armstrong Memorial Concert** at the **Beacon Theatre** in New York April 24. His LP on **Wolf Records** (distributed by T.K.), "Encourage The People," will be released shortly.

Fred Williamson has signed the **Dells** to score and record the soundtrack for his latest flick "No Way Back," which will debut at the **Cannes Film Festival** in May... **Henry Allen**, president of **Cotillion Records**, has announced that **Sherman Slim Marshall** will produce new material for **Sister Sledge**. The Philly songwriter's most recent credits include "Then Came You" and "I'm Doing Fine Now." Both **Sister Sledge** and **Slim** should be going into the studios real soon... **Van McCoy**, is currently in

continued on pg. 50

TOP 50 R&B ALBUMS

1	EARGASM Johnnie Taylor (Columbia PC 33951)	1	27	A LOVE TRILOGY Donna Summer (Oasis 5004) (Dist: Casablanca)	34
2	RUFUS FEATURING CHAKA KHAN (ABC ABCD 909)	2	28	FEEL THE SPIRIT LeRoy Hutson (WB CU 5010)	28
3	BRASS CONSTRUCTION (United Artists UA LA 545G)	3	29	THE SALSOUL ORCHESTRA (Salsoul Records SZS 5501)	20
4	MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION Parliament (Casablanca NBLP 7022)	5	30	THE BEST OF GLADYS KNIGHT & THE PIPS (Buddah BDS 5653)	31
5	GRATITUDE Earth, Wind & Fire (Columbia PG 33694)	4	31	WINGS OF LOVE Temptations (Gordy 971) (Dist: Motown)	41
6	CITY LIFE The Blackbyrds (Fantasy F9490)	7	32	FEELS SO GOOD Grover Washington, Jr. (Kudu KU 24)	16
7	WAKE UP EVERYBODY Harold Melvin & The Bluenotes (Phila. Int'l PZ 33808)	6	33	SHOWCASE The Sylvers (Capitol ST 11465)	29
8	DANCE YOUR TROUBLES AWAY Archie Bell & The Drells (TSOP PZ 33844)	8	34	TRUCKLOAD OF LOVIN' Albert King (Utopia BUL 1 1387)	30
9	LET THE MUSIC PLAY Barry White (20th Century T502)	9	35	CONCERT IN BLUES Willie Hutch (Motown M6 854S1)	32
10	HE'S A FRIEND Eddie Kendricks (Tania T6-343S1)	10	36	SILVER CONVENTION (Midland International: BKL 1-1369)	—
11	DIANA ROSS (Motown M6 861S1)	14	37	TROPEA John Tropea (Marii 2200) (Dist: T.K.)	38
12	FAMILY REUNION The O Jays (Phila. Int'l PZ 33807)	11	38	STRETCHING OUT IN BOOTSY'S RUBBER BAND Bootsy's Rubber Band (WBBS 2920)	43
13	WHEN LOVE IS NEW Billy Paul (Phila. Int'l PZ 33843)	12	39	LEE OSKAR (United Artists UA LA 594-G)	—
14	LOOK OUT FOR #1 Brothers Johnson (A&M SP 4567)	18	40	LOVING POWER Impressions (Curton CU 5009)	35
15	GROOVE-A-THON Isaac Hayes (ABC ABCD 925)	13	41	SECOND CHILDHOOD Phoebe Snow (Columbia PC 33951)	46
16	RAISING HELL The Fatback Band (Event EV 6905) (Dist: Polydor)	17	42	REFLECTIONS OF A GOLDEN DREAM Lionie Liston Smith & The Cosmic Echoes (Flying Dutchman BDL 1-1460)	—
17	SPINNERS LIVE Spinners (Atlantic SD 2-910)	15	43	JEALOUSY Major Harris (Atlantic SD 18160)	44
18	TURNING POINT Tyrone Davis (Dakar DK 76918)	19	44	BACK TO BACK Breckers Brothers (Arista 4061)	39
19	FULL OF FIRE Al Green (Hi SHL 32097)	22	45	HIDDEN STRENGTH (UA LA 555G)	45
20	LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING Kool & The Gang (DeLite DEP 2018)	25	46	BEAST FROM THE EAST Mandrii (United Artists UA LA 577G)	40
21	I WANT YOU Marvin Gaye (Tania T6-34251)	—	47	COME AS YOU ARE Ashford & Simpson (WB BS 2858)	47
22	MOVIN' ON Commodores (Motown M6-848S1)	23	48	WHO I AM David Ruffin (Motown M6-849S1)	36
23	INSEPARABLE Natalie Cole (Capitol ST 11429)	26	49	I HEAR A SYMPHONY Hank Crawford (Kudu KU 26) (Dist: Motown)	42
24	SMOKEY'S FAMILY ROBINSON Smokey Robinson (Tania T6 341S1)	24	50	RATTLESNAKE Ohio Players (Westbound W-211)	37
25	MYSTIC VOYAGE Roy Ayers Ubiquity (Polydor PD 6057)	21			
26	DISCO-FIED Rhythm Heritage (ABC ABCD 934)	27			

soul waves

How Do You Deal With Cover Records?

Chris Hall, program director at **KATZ** said, "If they are both good, I will play both. If there is a major difference in the sound I will go with the one that I think is the strongest. I also take into account which one I feel will be better for my market. Another thing I take into consideration is if one was a LP cut beforehand and I'm already playing it. If so I will usually go with that one. Or sometimes I just play both and let the listeners decide which one they like best."

Al Parker, program director at **WUFO** feels the whole thing is very confusing to both himself and his listeners. "What I do is sit and listen to both records and then decide which sounds the best. You have to go with your market. You have to go with the right sound. For example in the south a more bluesy thing may be more popular rather than say New York where they're into more finger poppin' sounds. I just go by my ear, or sometimes I just play both and let the listeners decide. I wonder why BMI or ASCAP doesn't do something about this. I think it's o.k. if the records are released at different times, but when they are released at the same time it's really just a competition between the record companies."

Travis Gardnes, program director at **KCOH** says in most instances cover records are just hassies. "Sometimes I don't even go on either record. Other times I try to go with the best version. These kinds of situations are real hassies and I don't really like to mess with it."

Jerry Fletcher, program director at **WZTQ** said he didn't like to see situations like this happen because it's confusing to him as well as his listeners. "It's also confusing

continued on pg. 50