

r&b ingredients

Where there's fire there's smoke and that is what is going to happen when **Chocolate City Records** releases the debut LP of **Smoke**. **Smoke** is **Donna Summer's** back-up group. The LP was produced by **Wayne Henderson** of the **Crusaders** and when this one is released in the next couple of weeks it will blow everybody out. **Smoke** is one group to watch out for. Also heard a couple sides of **Brenda and the Tabulations**. **Brenda** never sounded better and these will also be very hot pieces of vinyl. . . . **Blue-eyed soul** is back. **Haven Records** is now being distributed by **Arista** and their latest release is entitled "Hold On (To What You Got)" by the **Righteous Brothers**. The two soulful guys have got a monster on their hands. . . . **Brothers Johnson** really had one heck of a road trip. Their LP "Look Out For #1" is smokin'. This week it is 11 with a bullet r&b. The guys now have just released a single from the LP "I'll Be Good To You." It's a killer.



EASY LOVIN' — Freddie Hart recently surprised the staff at Claridge Records by dropping by to congratulate them on the Bo Kirkland and Ruth Davis recording of his composition "Easy Lovin'." Shown above from left to right are: Vic Catala, Claridge Records a&r director, Bob Kirkland, Claridge Records director of r&b a&r, Freddie Hart, Ruth Davis and Bo Kirkland.

Gary Gotham called in to say that the hottest thing happening in the Big Apple this week is "Foxy Lady," by the **Crown Heights Affair**. . . . The **Checkmates**, who have been doing lounges around the country of late, will be headed for the concert trail soon with the release of their latest single on **Polydor**. It's entitled "All Alone By The Telephone." It's a monster. . . . **Roy Ayers** has also pulled a single from his hot LP "Mystic Voyage" entitled "Evolution." . . . **Windy O'Grady** called in from the windy city and said that the new single by **Fire & Rain** entitled "Make Love To Me," is smokin' up Rush Street. . . . The **Brothers on RCA** have culled a new single from their LP entitled "Voce Abousou." **Al Green** is preparing for his first European tour. **Al** is getting ready to leave for England in May. . . . **Robertha**, the fiery Latin singer on **Fama Records**, is making plans for a major European club tour. . . . **T.K.** is at it again. Another major smash in the works for **Little Milton**. His latest single is entitled "Friends Of Mine," and it's on **Glades**. . . . **Mike & Bill** have released a new single for **Arista** entitled "Things Won't Be This Bad Always." Get on it. . . . Great tunes never die. One old tune beautifully redone is on **Atlantic**. It's entitled "Sixteen Tons" and it's by the **Don Harrison Band**. . . . **Reggie Banks** called in from Detroit to say that "Baby Do You Wanna Bump" by **Boney M** on **MAI Records** is the pick of the week. Watch this one climb.

Jeff Lane, the man responsible for much of the success of **B.T. Express** and **Brass Construction**, is now eyeing another hit. **Jeff** is currently recording **Mark Radice**. The single will be "Life Ain't Nothin' But A Party," and it will be on **UA Records**. . . . The **Spinners** already booked for a heavy concert schedule this summer have declined an offer to tour with the **Rolling Stones** later on this year. . . . **Mayor Tom Bradley** has declared Sunday April 11 as **Ella Fitzgerald Day** in Los Angeles. The honor came about because **Women At Work**, a L.A. based philanthropic organization, have chosen **Ella** as their 1976 Bicentennial Queen. A dinner will be held at the **Century Plaza Hotel** with the proceeds going to **Southwestern Christian College** and **Pepperdine University**. . . . Look for a new **Gil Scott-Heron** LP on **Arista** in the very near future. It will be a soundtrack LP from the film "Baron Wolfgang von Tripps." . . . **5th Dimension** are cookin' with a new single "Love Hangover." Besides a hot record the group appeared with **Barbara Walters** when she hosted the fourth annual "Women of the Year" show last week.

So many people hit on **Eddie Harris** for saxophone tips that **Eddie** has turned publisher. In five books **Eddie** explains his usual techniques and what to do to become another **Eddie Harris**. . . . **Simon Said**, a new female quartet on **Atlantic** recently had ten of their arrangements stolen out of their uncle's store. The arrangements cost them \$1300 and the group is putting up a \$200 reward for their return. . . . **Rage Records** has one of the hottest disco things happening at the moment. The tune is entitled "Dancing Free" by **Hot Ice**. Those interested in obtaining a twelve-inch copy can call over at **Rage** (213) 321-6823.

Roy Ayers has recently finished cutting his new LP entitled "Golden Rod" at both **Larrabee** in L.A. and **Electric Lady** in New York. The LP is due in June and features **Gregg Allman** joining **Roy** on some of the cuts which resulted into a fusion of jazz and country western. On **Freddie Hubbard's** new LP for **Columbia** entitled "Windjammer," there is going to be re-arrangement of the **Gary Wright's** #1 smash "Dream Weaver." Congratulations to **Maurice Green**, president of **Munah Productions**. **Maurice** got married to **Martha Rice** and the two are currently in Mexico for their honeymoon. . . . **pd's** and **md's** check out "Ain't That Love," by the **Infernal Blues Machine** off their latest LP on **London** entitled "Adios Amigos." It's too cold.

Capitol Records has got another **Natalie Cole** in the wings. Her name is **C.M. Lord** and her debut LP with **Capitol** will be out in a couple weeks. **Jerry Butler** is in **Philly** recording his latest LP for **Motown** with **Norman Harris** and the **Harris Machine**. **Bill Cosby's** talent is going to explode on the airwaves very shortly. **Bill** will be releasing a new single on **Capitol** entitled "Yes, Yes, Yes," which is a **Barry White** take-off. On the flip side will be **Bill's** version of **Michael Jackson's** "Ben." **Bill's** LP will also be out shortly and it is entitled "Not Himself These Days." He will also be headlining the **Las**

continued on pg. 38

TOP 50 R&B ALBUMS

1	EARGASM Johnnie Taylor (Columbia PC 33951)	1	26	RAISING HELL The Fatback Band (Event EV 6905) (Dist: Polydor)	16
2	RUFUS FEATURING CHAKA KHAN (ABC ABCD 909)	2	27	SPINNERS LIVE Spinners (Atlantic SD 2-910)	17
3	MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION Parliament (Casablanca NBLP 7022)	4	28	THE SALSOU ORCHESTRA (Salsoul Records SZS 5501)	29
4	BRASS CONSTRUCTION (United Artists UA LA 545G)	3	29	SILVER CONVENTION (Midland International BKL 1-1369)	36
5	GRATITUDE Earth, Wind & Fire (Columbia PG 33694)	5	30	MYSTIC VOYAGE Roy Ayers Ubiquity (Polydor PD 6057)	25
6	WAKE UP EVERYBODY Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes (Phila. Int'l PZ 33808)	7	31	FEELS SO GOOD Grover Washington, Jr. (Kudu KU 24)	32
7	DIANA ROSS (Motown M6 861S1)	11	32	FEEL THE SPIRIT LeRoy Hutson (WB CU 5010)	28
8	CITY LIFE The Blackbyrds (Fantasy F9490)	6	33	STRETCHING OUT IN BOOTSY'S RUBBER BAND Bootsy's Rubber Band (WB BS 2920)	38
9	DANCE YOUR TROUBLES AWAY Archie Bell & The Drells (TSOP PZ 33844)	8	34	LEE OSKAR (United Artists UA LA 594-G)	39
10	HE'S A FRIEND Eddie Kendricks (Tamla T6-343S1)	10	35	THE BEST OF GLADYS KNIGHT & THE PIPS (Buddah BDS 5653)	30
11	LOOK OUT FOR #1 Brothers Johnson (A&M SP 4567)	14	36	REFLECTIONS OF A GOLDEN DREAM Lonnie Liston Smith & The Cosmic Echoes (Flying Dutchman BDL1-1460)	42
12	FAMILY REUNION The O'Jays (Phila. Int'l PZ 33807)	12	37	TROPEA John Tropea (Marlin 2200) (Dist: T.K.)	37
13	I WANT YOU Marvin Gaye (Tamla T6-34251)	21	38	JEALOUSY Major Harris (Atlantic SD 18160)	43
14	LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING Kool & The Gang (DeLite DEP 2018)	20	39	SECOND CHILDHOOD Phoebe Snow (Columbia PC 33951)	41
15	FULL OF FIRE Al Green (Hi SHL 32097)	19	40	ROMANTIC WARRIOR Return To Forever (Columbia PC 34076)	—
16	LET THE MUSIC PLAY Barry White (20th Century T502)	9	41	BLACK MARKET Weather Report (Columbia PC 34099)	—
17	WHEN LOVE IS NEW Billy Paul (Phila. Int'l PZ 33843)	13	42	AMIGOS Santana (Columbia PC 33576)	—
18	GROOVE-A-THON Isaac Hayes (ABC ABCD 925)	15	43	LOVING POWER Impressions (Curton CU 5009)	40
19	TURNING POINT Tyrone Davis (Dakar DK 76918)	18	44	TRUCKLOAD OF LOVIN' Albert King (Utopia BUL 11387)	34
20	WINGS OF LOVE Temptations (Gordy 971) (Dist: Motown)	31	45	COME AS YOU ARE Ashford & Simpson (WB BS 2858)	47
21	MOVIN' ON Commodores (Motown M-848S1)	22	46	SHOWCASE The Sylvers (Capitol ST 11465)	33
22	INSEPARABLE Natalie Cole (Capitol ST 11429)	23	47	BREEZIN' George Benson (Warner Bros. BS 2919)	—
23	A LOVE TRILOGY Donna Summer (Oasis 5004) (Dist: Casablanca)	27	48	BACK TO BACK Brecker Brothers (Arista 4061)	44
24	DISCO-FIED Rhythm Heritage (ABC ABCD 934)	26	49	THE LEPRECHAUN Chuck Corea (Polydor PD 6062)	—
25	SMOKEY'S FAMILY ROBINSON Smokey Robinson (Tamla T6 341S1)	24	50	BEAST FROM THE EAST Mandrill (United Artists UA LA 577G)	46

soul waves

XSOL's hot lineup includes **Bruce Ley**, **LaVel Thomas** and **Sweet C**. **Bruce**, who is the program director is also looking for an air personality. Please send tapes and resumes to him care of the station. The address is 4183 Market Street, San Diego, Ca. 92102.

KDKO is helping to promote the new movie "Sparkie." They will be giving away tickets for the premiere in Denver and also putting on a fashion show. **KDKO** is also having a super contest called "Stick It And Win." The **KDKO** spies run around town and when they see a bumper sticker the winner automatically receives a six-pack of the latest hot LPs.

KQIV in Portland, Oregon is making the hits happen. Their soulful lineup includes **Paul Cutchlow**, program director, from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. it's **Michael Dee**. From 4 to 7 p.m., it's strictly three hours of disco hits. **Adrian Harris** holds down the fort from 7 p.m. to midnight and **Ray O'Neil** is the night owl from midnight to 6 a.m. **Roy J.** handles things on the weekends and also has a show called "The Spectrum Of Soul," where he features the latest pieces of vinyl. Another special feature at **KQIV** is a show from 11 p.m. to midnight every night called "Sixty Minutes Till Tomorrow" which features the latest jazz recordings.

WBMX is having a "Say You Love Me" contest in conjunction with **RCA**. Listeners will register at their favorite record store during the month of April. The two lucky winners of the contest will receive a color TV and a black & white TV.

WKVO in Columbus is also having a promotion with the movie "Sparkie." The proceeds from the event are going to the Benefit Youth Services Bureau which is going to send 14 Columbus youths to Washington, D.C. for the Bicentennial.

WCKO is having terrific success with their program "Bringing You Closer To The Stars." In the past they've had **Al Green** and **Nancy Wilson** as guest air personalities. Now **James Brown** is getting into the act. **James** will play dj and also do on the air interviews with local youths from the drug center. Also **WRBD**, its sister station is equipping itself with a cb band so listeners can call into the station and request records off their cb.

jess levitt