

ROLLING STONES (Rolling Stone RS-19304)

Fool To Cry (3:59) (Promopub B.V. — ASCAP) (Jagger, Richards)

This single from their upcoming "Black And Blue" LP marks somewhat of a departure for the Stones. The beat is relaxed, vocals are laid over a foundation of Fender Rhodes and guitar, all played with funky style. Mick Jagger pulls off some excellent falsetto, as Richard responds with searing guitar riffs. The band's reputation will make this an immediate add at all AM and FM radio outlets.

MARVIN GAYE (Tamla T 54264)

I Want You (3:53) (Aimo/Jobete — ASCAP) (L. Ware, T-Bone Ross)

This is already being picked up by every station that can get its hands on the record, and is definitely headed straight for the top of the r&b charts. Gaye has never sung better, and his emotion-packed voice is laid over an absolutely churning rhythm track. Look for this one to cross pop soon. Flip: Instrumental (4:38).

BAY CITY ROLLERS (Arista AS 0185)

Rock And Roll Love Letter (2:52) (Andustin — ASCAP) (Tim Moore)

This song comes hot on the heels of "Money Honey," and the Rollers deliver this one with a solid rock beat. It's a good tune, that will doubtless be covered by others in the near future; it was written by Tim Moore, American Song Festival grand prize winner two years ago. Punched up vocals and guitar work will send this to the higher reaches of the pop charts.

NILSSON (RCA JH-10634)

Sail Away (3:40) (WB/Randy Newman — ASCAP) (R. Newman)

Nilsson takes this classic Randy Newman song and spices it up with a slick arrangement. Like Newman, he is a unique stylist, and every song he sings becomes his own. Emphasis is placed in unusual places; there are hooks in this song that you never thought were there. This will be played a great deal on FM progressive radio stations.

WILLIE NELSON (Columbia 3-10327)

I'd Have To Be Crazy (Prophecy Pub. — ASCAP) (S. Fromholz)

This single, taken from Nelson's "The Sound In Your Mind" LP, is an extremely strong country and pop entry. Nelson sings the sweet melody with his usual flair, and the backup vocals, featuring Nelson the lines add a real spark to the tune. "I may not be normal, but nobody is," he sings. This will certainly be a natural add to all country lists.

MARIA MULDAUR (Reprise RPS 1352)

Sad Eyes (3:30) (Kirshner — BMI/KEC — ASCAP) (Neil Sedaka, Phil Cody)

This is the first single from Maria Muldaur's "Sweet Harmony" LP and it looks like an excellent choice. Maria wraps her soulful voice around the old-timey Sedaka melody, and brings the message home. It's an upbeat shuffle that should hit all pop markets with immediate strength.

BETTE MIDLER (Atlantic 45-3325)

Old Cape Cod (2:48) (George Pincus & Sons. — BMI) (C. Rothrock, A. Jeffrey, M. Yakus)

Midler gives this old song the full treatment of her famous over-dubbed vocals. "Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy," however, was tainted with camp. On this one the tune is dealt with in a respectful fashion. The production, by Joel Dorn and the artist, is filled with nuance that is a hook in itself — the strings that fade in and out are but one example. Look for this one on FM progressives and MOR slots.

ROSE BANKS (Motown M 1383F)

Whole New Things (3:28) (Stone Diamond — BMI) (Bowen, Thomas, Ford)

This is a powerful funk tune, with terrific horn and synthesizer work. Rose Banks is Sly Stone's sister, and apparently hits run in the family. The chorus is built with ascending chords and is a perfect hook. This will be an r&b smash, no doubt, and should chart strong pop. Banks' voice is recognizable and uniquely attractive.

JOHNNY RIVERS (Epic 8-50208)

Outside Help (3:10) (Rivers — ASCAP) (J. Rivers, R. Knapp)

Rivers makes a dynamic pop entry with this one, definitely in the rock 'n' roll vein. Words are strung together for a syncopated effect. Rivers gets a push from some well-charted horns and great rhythm guitar work. Look for this one to make an immediate show on the pop charts.

THE STEVE GIBBONS BAND (MCA 40551)

Johnny Cool (2:56) (Tower Tunes/Naimad Laine Songs — BMI) (Steve Gibbons)

"This is the ballad of Johnny Cool" is the spoken introduction, and then the tune slips and slides its way through a funky J.J. Cale-like arrangement. Gibbons' voice is an excellent vehicle for a good rock 'n' roll tune. The band established its power on the recent Who tour; they were the show openers. FM, AM.

IAN LLOYD (Polydor PD 14319)

Never Been A Man (3:24) (Diamond Touch/Windbreeze — ASCAP) (G. Diamond, I. Lloyd)

Ian Lloyd used to be with "Stories," and had the number one hit "Brother Louis" with that band. Now he steps out on his own with a strong pop tune, fully produced and powerfully sung. The beat is dynamic, and should bring this song to all pop markets. Great guitar work throughout.

TOM SCOTT (Ode 66121)

Time And Love (3:10) (Antisia — ASCAP) (R. MacDonald, W. Slater)

Tom Scott, studio and tour back-up wizard, has come up with a tightly constructed MOR jazz tune. The first part is slow, almost languorous, with two horns bouncing the melody lines off of each other. A slick rhythmic shift follows midway, the drums kick-up the beat, and Scott gets a chance to wail. As always, his tone and phrasing is impeccable, and there's some fine keyboard work here. A must add for FM progressives and jazz stations.

TOM SULLIVAN (ABC 12174)

Yes, I'm Ready (3:30) (Dandelion/Stiliran — BMI) (B. Mason)

Tom Sullivan is the gentleman who sang the Star Spangled Banner at the start of this year's Super Bowl. His talents are not limited to anthems, however, as this tune shows off his considerable powers as a vocal stylist. The song is beautifully produced. Sullivan's voice is high, moving and sweet; he can really handle a ballad. MOR, FM.

JOHN MILES (London 5N-20086)

Music (5:52) (Velvet/Rak — PRS) (Miles)

Miles has come up with an excellent single. The tune is sophisticated, really a musical gem. The rhythms are fully orchestrated — it's a good song to dance to. Look for this one to show up on FM progressives. "Music was my first love," Miles sings, and apparently his sentiments have not changed.

BILL COSBY (Capitol P-4258)

Yes, Yes, Yes (3:22) (Turtie Head — BMI) (S. Gardner, B. Cosby)

At first listen this sounds like a serious r&b offering, with slick production and backup female singers. Cosby's voice, however, is so low that the mood created is actually hilarious. The lyric is excellent parody, with Cosby chanting "right on, right on, right on." This will get played as a novelty on r&b and FM stations, and, through Cosby's wide-spread reputation, get some AM play too.

CROWN HEIGHTS AFFAIR (DeLite DEP-1581) (Dist: Pip)

Foxy Lady (3:30) (Delightful — BMI) (F. Nerangis, B. Britton)

The beat of this song is established in the first measure and never lets up. The drummer is working overtime in this funk offering. There's a synthesizer fill that's a hook through repetition of a haunting figure. Look for this one to make a strong r&b showing.

JOHNNY NASH (Epic 8-50219)

(What A) Wonderful World (3:11) (Kags — BMI) (H. Alpert, L. Alder, S. Cooke)

An interesting cover of a classic tune. Nash shifts the rhythms around, experiments with the phrasing, and what emerges is something his very own — it's almost a new song. Should get pop, MOR, and FM progressive airplay.

KEITH CARRADINE (ABC 12117)

I'm Easy (2:59) (Lion's Gate/Easy — ASCAP) (K. Carradine)

Carradine recently won an Academy Award for this song from the movie "Nashville." It's a beautiful ballad. Carradine accompanies himself with fingerpicked guitar. An economical but effective back-up was provided by producer and arranger Richard Baskin. Because of the award the tune is being re-serviced and should find a spot on many playlists, and solid home on the pop charts.

DANE DONOHUE (Columbia) (No number available)

I'm Easy (3:08) (Lion's Gate/Easy — ASCAP) (K. Carradine)

Donohue has taken the Carradine song and turned it in a slightly country direction. A barroom sounding piano has been added to the top, and backing vocals complete the mood. This one will be added to country spots, and it will be interesting to see how these two compete for their share of pop play.

PAUL DELICATO (Artists of America AOA-120)

It's The Same Old Song (2:45) (Stone Agate — BMI) (Holland, Dozier, Holland)

Delicato has come up with another single from his "Cara Mia" LP and it's a winning cover of a classic song. The voices are exuberant, full, and supercharged with emotion. Delicato has an interesting style that adapts itself to many genres, and this tune should get a good shot at top 40 radio, and MOR stations.

THE TUFANO & GIAMMARESE BAND (Ode 66122)

Times Change (3:35) (India — ASCAP) (Tufano, Giammarese)

The opening chords of this tune make you stop and think, and the rest of the song follows suit. This is a professional offering, in the pop/MOR vein, and should be picked up by radio stations that lean in those directions, and FM progressives as well. There's a horn fill that's a hook in itself.

TRET FURE (Joyce 102-A)

It Doesn't Matter Anymore (2:45) (Unichappelli — BMI) (Hall, Allen)

The opening strains of this record by a talented new artist sound a little bit like Beatles circa 1969. Then the tune drifts into a country-pop vein, and Fure handles the vocals with confidence and poise. The chorus is a hook; it sticks in the memory. The production is by Morgan Cavett who also produced the first Captain and Tennille record. MOR and pop stations should check this out. Flip: It Isn't Always Love (3:03).

STEVE WIGHTMAN (Farr FR-003-A)

You Know The Feelin' (2:45) (Carmela Music — SESAC) (S. Wightman)

Wightman has a pleasant voice, reminiscent of some Eagles lead vocals, and has written a catchy tune to go with it. The song is already achieving a large measure of success in the Northeast, and the slick production will take this to all pop and MOR markets.

THE CHAMPS' BOYS ORCHESTRA (Janus J-259)

Tubular Bells (3:10) (Aimo — ASCAP) (Mike Oldfield)

Janus Records picked up this song after hearing it at this year's MIDEM conference, and it's easy to see why. The band takes the haunting Oldfield melody (remember the Exorcist?) and lays it over a powerful rhythm base, with full production. Should be a smash in the discos, and would be a smart add to FM and AM programming.

SCOTT KEY (Pyramid P-8002)

Town Crier (2:17) (Planetary/Karolann — ASCAP) (D. John)

A bicentennial spoof by a fellow suspiciously named. The record is in the interview format, with the town crier asking questions of various 18th century luminaries — Ben Franklin and Paul Revere among them. The responses are in the form of songs — snatches of recent top 40. Should get some play in MOR markets, and FM progressives will latch onto this for a good laugh.

SIR WALES WALLACE (Now Sound NS-101)

People Sure Act Funny (When They Get A Little Money) (3:18) (Tranchell-Growth/Philomela/Unichappelli — BMI) (L. Simon, L. Brownie)

This tune jumps right at you! The Philadelphia sound is prevalent, and in fine form here. Sir Wales is an excellent singer; he knows how to phrase for the most effect. The horns and back-up singers give the tune an extra push. Program directors: check this one out, it's filled with hooks.

ISANTO CALIFORNIA (Laurie LR 3640)

Tornero (3:33) (Tro-Essex — ASCAP) (I. Polizzy, C. Natili, M. Ramoino)

This is a ballad that builds in intensity as the needle moves through the grooves. Backing vocals lend the feeling of a full chorus, and the lead vocal, sung in Spanish, is beautiful. This will certainly get MOR and Latin-oriented airplay.

LONNIE YOUNGBLOOD (Calla CAS 109)

Let My Love Bring Out The Woman In You (3:20) (Sherlyn — BMI) (C. Reid)

Lonnie Youngblood's voice is edged with roughness, and he uses it on this single to make more than a few emotional points. It's an uptempo love ballad that should find a place on many r&b and pop playlists. Great production, and the playing, especially the sax work, is accomplished.

ROGER WHITTAKER (Victor KMBO-5025-A)

Mon Pays Bleu (3:10) (No licensing info.) (R. Whittaker)

This Canadian recording begins with a touch of baroque, and then Whittaker's voice comes in, deep and expressive. The song is in French, but no matter, the melody is beautiful. Look for this one to pick up adds on many MOR stations.