

CASH BOX R&B

R&B Ingredients

An interesting situation arose after analyzing the charts this week. What seems to be occurring is a heightened awareness by both pop and black programmers into both pop and R&B product. "Disco Lady," by Johnnie Taylor and "Boogie Fever," by the Sylvers are the only two singles to have gone platinum so far in 1976. Both records were #1 on the **Cash Box** pop and R&B charts. It seems that both record and radio people are becoming more knowledgeable of both areas and see how important it is to be conscious of crossover potential. Pop groups like the Doobie Brothers, Boz Scaggs, Elvin Bishop, David Bowie, Bee Gees and Steve Miller are all getting heavy black AM airplay. So are Johnnie Taylor, Lou Rawls, Natalie Cole, Tavares, Wild Cherry etc. on the pop side. The record buying public seems to be ready for this crossover situation and both record and radio people are preparing themselves for it.

Hottest news of the week is that the **Jackson Family LP** is already in the can. It was produced by **Gamble & Huff**. Also learned that **Theodore Pendergrass** is going to do a solo LP. He will not be with the **Blue Notes**. Gamble & Huff will be producing the Teddy Bear. On the other hand **Harold Melvin** and the **Blue Notes** are negotiating with Gamble & Huff for their next LP. . . . Also made an error last week, the new **Miracles LP** "Power Of Music" was written by both **Bill Griffin** and **Peter Moore**. Pete, not Bill produced the LP. . . . Sorry. . . . **Jermaine Jackson's** new solo LP on **Motown** is being readied for shipment at any time. The **Parliaments** are inches away from going platinum with their "Mothership Connection," LP. . . . **Tavares** high on both charts with their LP and single can be seen on the **Dinah Shore Show** August 4th. The brothers are happening. . . . **Archie Bell** and the **Drells** are off to Brazil for a major tour. After that they're headed for Africa. Their new LP will be out shortly. . . . **The Commodores** have added a horn section to the group so that their sound will be that much richer when they perform live. . . . Isn't their LP the hottest thing happening? . . . **Jean Carns**, the fantastic vocalist on the 1st **Norman Connors LP** is just finishing her LP for **Philly International**. Jean is managed by **Billy Ward**, formerly of that great group of the past, the **Dominos**.



BACKSTAGE FUN — **WDIA** in Memphis recently held its Good-Will Revue at the Memphis Mid-South Coliseum. Shown above (l to r) having some backstage fun before the show are **B.B. King**, **Little Milton**, **Mike Frisby**, program director **WDIA**, **Dave Clark**, special promotions at **T.K. Records**, **Benny Latimore**, **Honey Boy**, **WDIA** air personality and **Vince Wayne**, **WDIA** air personality.

Dorothy Moore after wooing them in Los Angeles, didn't pass go, didn't collect \$200, didn't go to jail, but went directly to make an appearance on the **Mike Douglas Show**. . . . **Dorothy** is going to be a very big star. . . . **Sister Sledge** are currently on a club tour in the South. The girl's new single "Thank You For Today," is happening. . . . **Gene Russell** took a fall last week but he wasn't hurt seriously. Gene is back on his feet and doin' it. . . . Congratulations to **Rod McGrew** and his wife on the birth of their new son, **Rodrick Elliot McGrew II**. . . . Also want to congratulate **Earl Payne** on his new position as program director at **WNOV**. . . . Happy birthdays last week to **Suzanne DePasse** at **Motown** and singer **Kellee Patterson**. Both are two of the loveliest ladies in the City of the Angels. . . . **Hodges, James & Smith** are currently working their booties off in preparation for their opening of "I Heard That," at the **Whiskey** in August. . . . Learned that the **Dramatics** and **Marilyn McCoo** and **Billy Davis** will have new LPs out in the next couple of weeks. . . . **Maria Tynes**, president of **R&R Records, Inc.** has appointed **George Kerr** to the position of v.p. of A&R for that label. . . . **George** is another well-known musical veteran.

Rapped with **Leon Haywood** last week. Leon has completed his new LP, however he and 20th have a few things to work out so the LP probably won't be shipped for awhile. Leon has come up with a very strong LP. The **Memphis Horns** are on some cuts, plus Leon has included a couple of **Van McCoy** tunes that are super. "Strokin'," his single is cold-blooded. . . . **Bobby Williams** new LP on **R&R Records** "Anybody Can Be A Nobody," is a stone smash. **Thelma Houston** dropped by the **Cash Box** offices last week. **Thelma** has a new single out from the film "Bingo Longo Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings." She is also featured on two other cuts on the movie soundtrack. Also a solo LP by **Thelma** will be released in late summer by **Motown** and the LP will feature material produced by **Eddie** and **Brian Holland**, **Joe Porter**, **Hal Davis**, **Bill Goldstein**, **Mike Sutton** and **Ron Miller**. When she is not singing, **Thelma** is very involved in working with the 3rd World Ethnic Books and Black History Association. They are currently working on finding a new facility to house books, films etc. An upcoming project for the group is a **Bessie Smith** film festival.

Rapped with **Lewis Grey** last week about the upcoming **Earth, Wind & Fire** show at the **Rose Bowl**. **Grey** said the gate will be one million dollars and this show at the **Rose Bowl** will be much better than the one **Hollywood Bowl** because the whole city of **Pasadena** is involved. Security will be tighter than at last year's show. Tickets will be scaled from 8 to 10 dollars. There will also be a special V.I.P. section. There won't be festival seating but assigned seating just like for football games. . . . **Grey** is interested in adding the **O'Jays** to the show, but so far hasn't received word from the group. Also learned that the **Commodores** may be doing the show. . . . **Grey** commented that the promotion business has changed dramatically over the past few years. "Today's promoters are businessmen. It's getting tougher and tougher on the guys that don't know the business. The key to success in the promotion business is in being organized. You need to have a top staff that know how to organize and present the best show possible. I'm finding out now that promoters, agencies, groups and managers are working closer together to bring the best possible show to the public. . . . I feel that the upcoming **Earth, Wind & Fire** will be one of the biggest and best concerts of the year. . . . that's soul. . . ."

jess levitt

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TOP 50 R&B ALBUMS

		Weeks On Chart			Weeks On Chart		
1	SPARKLE ARETHA FRANKLIN (Atlantic SD 18176)	3	7	26	WILD CHERRY (Sweet City/Epic 34195)	37	2
2	BREEZIN' GEORGE BENSON (WB 2919)	1	17	27	DIANA ROSS (Motown M6-861S1)	15	23
3	CONTRADICTION OHIO PLAYERS (Mercury SRM 1-1088)	2	8	28	MISTY BLUE DOROTHY MOORE (Malaco/TK 6351)	23	10
4	ALL THINGS IN TIME LOU RAWLS (Phila. Int'l./Epic PZ 33957)	6	9	29	JUICY FRUIT (DISCO FREAK) ISAAC HAYES (Hot Buttered Soul/ABC 953)	39	2
5	NATALIE NATALIE COLE (Capitol ST 11517)	5	10	30	WHERE THE HAPPY PEOPLE GO THE TRAMMPS (Atlantic SD 18172)	27	12
6	HARVEST FOR THE WORLD ISLEY BROTHERS (Epic PZ 33809)	4	9	31	YOU ARE MY STARSHIP NORMAN CONNORS (Buddah BDS 5655)	47	2
7	LOOK OUT FOR #1 BROTHERS JOHNSON (A&M SP 4567)	7	21	32	BRASS CONSTRUCTION (United Artists UA LA 545G)	31	27
8	MANHATTANS (Columbia PC 33820)	8	14	33	RASTAMAN VIBRATION BOB MARLEY (Island ILPS 9383)	25	13
9	HOT ON THE TRACKS COMMODORES (Motown M6-867S1)	14	4	34	LOVE POTION NEW BIRTH (Warner Brothers BS 2953)	43	2
10	MIRROR GRAHAM CENTRAL STATION (WB BS 2937)	12	5	35	EVERYBODY COME OUT STANLEY TURRENTINE (Fantasy F9508)	28	7
11	MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION PARLIAMENT (Casablanca NBLP 7022)	10	27	36	SUMMERTIME MFSB (Phila. Int'l./Epic PZ 34238)	38	5
12	I WANT YOU MARVIN GAYE (Motown T634251)	11	18	37	BORN TO GET DOWN MUSCLE SHOALS HORNS (Bang BLP 403)	35	8
13	THOSE SOUTHERN KNIGHTS CRUSADERS (Blue Thumb/ABC BTSD 6024)	9	10	38	ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES PLEASURE (Fantasy F 9506)	41	3
14	HARD WORK JOHN HANDY (ABC/Impulse ASD 9314)	16	8	39	HAPPINESS IS BEING WITH THE SPINNERS SPINNERS (Atlantic SD 18181)	—	1
15	SKY HIGH TAVARES (Capitol ST 11533)	19	7	40	EARGASM JOHNNIE TAYLOR (Columbia PC 33951)	29	21
16	STRETCHING OUT IN BOOTSY'S RUBBER BAND BOOTSY'S RUBBER BAND (WB BS 2920)	17	8	41	EVERYTHING'S COMING UP LOVE DAVID RUFFIN (Motown M6-86651)	40	8
17	GIVE, GET, TAKE AND HAVE CURTIS MAYFIELD (Curtom/WB CU 5007)	20	5	42	WE GOT RHYTHM PEOPLE'S CHOICE (TSOP/Epic PZ 34124)	34	5
18	FEVER RONNIE LAWS (Blue Note/UA BNLA 628G)	18	9	43	LET YOUR MIND BE FREE BROTHER TO BROTHER (All Platinum 7015)	33	10
19	GOOD KING BAD GEORGE BENSON (CTI 6062)	22	5	44	FLOWERS EMOTIONS (Columbia PC 34163)	46	2
20	YOUNG HEARTS RUN FREE CANDI STATON (Warner Bros. BS 2948)	21	10	45	JOE SIMON TODAY JOE SIMON (Spring/Polydor SP 16710)	49	3
21	SOUL SEARCHING AVERAGE WHITE BAND (Atlantic SD 18179)	32	2	46	SILK DEGREES BOZ SCAGGS (Columbia PC 33920)	—	1
22	THREE BOB JAMES (CTI 6063)	26	6	47	AIN'T THAT A BITCH JOHNNY GUITAR WATSON (Amherst DJM/Amherst DJLPA-3)	—	1
23	COLLECTOR'S ITEM HAROLD MELVIN & THE BLUENOTES (Phila. Int'l./Epic PZ 34232)	24	5	48	IMPACT (Atco/Atlantic SD 36-135)	50	6
24	ENERGY TO BURN B.T. EXPRESS (Columbia PC 34178)	13	10	49	BILL COSBY IS NOT HIMSELF THESE DAYS (Capitol ST 11530)	44	10
25	TOGETHER AGAIN . . . LIVE BOBBY BLAND & B.B. KING (ABC ASD 9317)	36	3	50	LEE OSKAR (United Artists UA LA 594G)	45	18

SoulWaves Is NATRA the answer for the black broadcasting industry?

Joe Fisher, program director at **WCKO** and past president of the Florida chapter of **NATRA** feels the organization needs a lot of changes. "First off the location of the convention is horrible. I can't afford to go, and I'm a program director. How can other air personalities do it? The organization does need a lot of help. I do like the idealism behind an organization like **NATRA** but for the past five or six years, the older members just bicker, argue, and fuss and nothing gets done. The organization has never acknowledged any of the younger programmers and given them a chance to participate. Also there has been too much in-fighting between the members from the north and the south. **NATRA** has not changed with the times, everyone in black

radio has tried valiantly to grow except the **NATRA** organization. I think that **NATRA** should also try to be more self-sufficient as an organization without depending on record companies for help. When the record companies are involved, they muscle in. I would like to see a convention where I and my radio colleagues could inter-relate and learn."

Bernard Miller, program director at **KNOK** in Ft. Worth feels **NATRA** could be the answer, but that it doesn't do anything for its members. "I don't see **NATRA** focusing in on the needs of the program directors and jocks. I would have liked to attend if they had seminars, where I could have sat down and talked shop. However, I have to stay on top of my station and really don't