JAMES BROWN (Polydor 14360)

Bodyheat (Part 1) (4:05) (Dyna tone/ Belushi/Unichanp - BMI) (Brown, Brown, Brown)
A further refinement of the "Have You Seen The Bridge" style which Brown created. The bass/bass drum bottom occupies such a low register that it's easier to feel in your stomach than hear with your ears. The remarkable climax and syncopated guitar chords ride the top. Mixed very dry and up front, the lead vocal has a three-dimensional presence. Instant R&B adds more heavy disco play.

TOM JONES (Epic/MAM 50308)

Say You'll Stay Until Tomorrow (3:32) (Dick James - BMI) (Greenaway, Mason)
Capturing one of the most easy-listening character of AM radio, this popular entertainer is taking a carefully timed stab at MOR and top 40 formats. A country ballad with a "western" feel, the song is a perfect showcase for the unassuming voice that first became popular for its R&B quality, but Jones has always been one to hit with current trends.

CLINT HOLMES (Private Stock 126)

I Can Count On You (3:22) (Deems Blue/Blackwood - BMI) (Adrassi, Adrassi)
A melodic ballad in the pop-easy listening vein from the man who brought "Playin' In My Mind" to the top. Holmes' vocal is sparingly poetic; the sound is big, with orchestra arrangements by Charlie Calello, who joins Joel Diamond in the production. The Sgt. Pepper-esque intro, employing recorders, harpsichord-like guitars and wispy vocals, is a brilliant touch that's very pleasant when it returns.

MOTHER'S FINEST (Epic 50310)

Rain (3:22) (Tina-TIL - ASCAP) (Daniel, Sey, Kennedy, Murdock, Moore, Keck)
The second single from the "Mother's Finest" LP, this record breaks out with actual thunder, exploding into a tricky riot that exemplifies this group's fusion of R&B and hard rock. The emphasis is on power-chords, screaming vocals and hooks carried by a very British-influenced lead guitar. A worthy experiment in programming material for AOR, R&B and top 40 formats.

JOE SIMON (Spring 169) (Dial: Polydor)

Easy To Love (3:35) (Composer: Fritts, White)
Justin's been around the block, but he's still a one-time dance staple. His second single, backed by a well-chosen R&B group, thanks to the tight production, is a guaranteed hit. The debut on the Cash Box top 100 R&B singles chart this week with a strong track record for crossover behind him.

MICHAEL HENDERSON (Buddah 552)

Be My Girl (3:31) (Electrocorp Publ. - ASCAP) (Henderson)
Taken from his "Solid" album, this single should dispel any remaining confusion about Henderson, who was the male lead vocalist on Norrin Roross's last two charting singles. A solid success, "Be My Girl" is anchored by a lush-studding grand piano, is totally his own creative effort, including production. For R&B and AOR programmers.

BUM BEE UNLIMITED (Mercury 73864)

Love Bug (2:30) (Sug-Sug/Pap - ASCAP) (Adams)
This record combines the disco and novelty worlds, with a heavy downbeat and electronically filtered voices that sound like little insects to enthralling "Sting me with your love." Coming in long and shortened versions, this record could be a summer radio favorite especially if carried radio formats in addition to guaranteed disco play.

ENCHANTMENT (UA 297)

Gloria (2:32) (Devotion/Moon Willow Song - BMI) (Stokes, Jones)
A slow ballad, beautifully sung by a lead vocalist with a powerful high range. The arrangement is in the class "jazzy" style, with brass and backing vocals that call the big band era to mind. An initial delivery stemming from UA's recent agreement with Roadshow Records, this is quality material for R&B formats.