AEROSMITH - The Other Side (Geffen)
Don't stop pumpin' yet 'cause the well is far from dry. Coming off of three stellar and musically-varied efforts, one wonders how these veteran rockers could possibly top themselves. Fact is, no matter which of the four versions/mixes you choose, the final conclusion is, this fourth single off "Pump" is the hottest side yet.

MADONNA - Hanky Panky (Sire/Warner Bros.)
It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing—or is that sting? The most famous blonde in the universe gets slap happy, turning her now well-publicized fondness for lap games into a vampish musical romp. You don't have to be the world's greatest detective to know why this track will leave 'em breathless.

HEART - I Didn't Want To Need You (Capitol)
Two sets of Wilson sisters grace the chart these days, but Ann and Nancy are the ones who have survived the good and lean years to emerge triumphant despite the skeptics and naysayers. Together with the guiding, helping hands of producer Richie Zito and writer Diane Warren, Heart's prognosis is a long and healthy Summer.

SINEAD O'CONNOR - The Emperor's New Clothes (Ensign/Chrysalis)/Sinead's name will forever be linked to the indelible image of a teardrop on the video of her signature song, "Nothing Compares 2 U." Thanks to her remarkable rendition of that little-known Prince composition, the masses are hip to the genius of this twenty-three year-old artist from Ireland. The road's now paved for the public to experience another side of Sinead through one of her own creations set to a brighter beat.

BRUCE HORNBY & THE RANGE - Across The River (RCA)
Let it rip! No stranger to drawing us portraits through his music, Bruce picks up the tempo for a rousing chorus that makes a powerful impact. Along with the skilled musicianship of his band, Deadheads will delight in brilliant guitar work from Jerry Garcia who joins in the fun. Listeners who have waited patiently for a new Bruce Hornsby release won't be disappointed.

maxi priest close to you

MAXI PRIEST - Close To You (Charisma)
One cover is enough for Maxi Priest, so don't be deceived by the title—this tune's got nothing to do with The Carpenters. An incredibly smooth groove from start to finish, Jazzie B.'s involvement adds that unmistakable Soul II Soul touch.

CROSSOVER PICK

THE BLACK FLAMES - Watching You (OBR/Columbia)
There are lots of heavyweight names out there with new releases, but don't overlook these newcomers who are currently climbing Gavin's Urban Contemporary chart with a song first released by Slave in 1981. First time I heard it on KMEL, I was knocked out it just gets better. Has the goods to go the distance as a mass appeal Top 40 track.

N W E E T K J A N E C H I L D