

**THE SOUND OF SUNSHINE**

**SUNSHINE BAND—TK 604 (6.98)**

H.W. Casey and Richard Finch are the producing and arranging power in the TK family who, through the Sunshine Band, have now put together an album of original selections in the sure-fire "Rock Your Baby" mold. "Funky '75" and "Sunshine City" follow form as do "Shotgun Shuffle" and "Hey J."



**SWEET SOUL MUSIC**

**TRACY NELSON—MCA MCA-494 (6.98)**

With an emphasis on the rhythm and blues side of her country roots, Ms. Nelson brings a new-found dynamic control to her first for MCA. Roger Troy (via "Sweet Soul Music," "Baby I Found Out" and "Lies") is of particular help in providing melodic focus; producer Bob Johnston surrounds her with a bevy of funky horns.



**KICK OFF YOUR MUDDY BOOTS**

**GRAEME EDGE BAND Featuring ADRIAN GURVITZ—Threshold THS 15 (London) (6.98)**

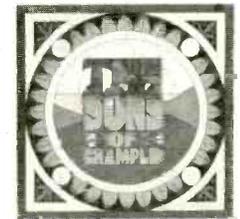
Edge has stepped away from his Moody Blues identification, with Adrian Gurvitz adding a solid rock foundation on lead vocals and guitar. "Have You Ever Wondered" has a variety of textures while "The Tunnel" could introduce Edge and Gurvitz to the disco scene.



**THE SONS OF CHAMPLIN**

**Ariola-America ST 50002**

FM airplay was widespread when this set appeared under the Sons' Gold Mine banner. With major distribution, sales follow-through should begin on the west coast and sail across the continent. White r&b is the basic sound with "Lookout" and "Rainbow's End" on the pop side and "Like to Get To To Know You" jazzier.



**VISIONS OF A NEW WORLD**

**LONNIE LISTON SMITH & THE COSMIC ECHOES—Flying Dutchman BDL1-1196 (RCA) (6.98)**

With his last set, "Expansions," still riding comfortably high on the RW Jazz LP Chart, Smith renews his efforts from behind the keyboards. "Love Beams" and "Colors of the Rainbow" are the most impressionistic. The two-part "Visions" is an especially multi-faceted work.



**RIDIN' HIGH**

**JERRY JEFF WALKER—MCA MCA-2156 (6.98)**

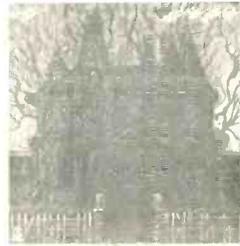
It's not as long from Oswego to Austin as one might think, but Jerry Jeff is firmly ensconced among the Cosmic Cowboys. The formula—a few originals, some from friends, and lots of loose energy from the Lost Gonzo Band—works once again with "Public Domain," "Pick Up the Tempo" and "Mississippi You're on My Mind."



**LOVE TO LOVE YOU BABY**

**DONNA SUMMER—Casablanca OCLP 5003 (6.98)**

The title track is an almost 17-minute opus geared right to the disco dance floor. The density varies but the beat remains constant. The ballad "Whispering Waves" on the second side allows Ms. Summer to exercise a gifted ability at vocal coloration—wispily yet full-voiced, giving each word its fullest due.



**THIRTEEN BLUE MAGIC LANE**

**BLUE MAGIC—Alco SD 36-120 (6.98)**

The quintet whose "Sideshow" turned into a full production have now developed a set built of their own kind of magical mystery tour ("Born On Halloween," "Haunted By Your Love"). As the second side closes, however, with Margie Joseph joining the group on "What's Come Over Me," the piece de resistance is delivered.



**EXPERIENCE**

**GLORIA GAYNOR—MGM M3G 4997 (6.98)**

The Queen of the Discos holds her title with flair. A three song first side—"Casanova Brown," "(If You Want It) Do It Yourself" and "How High the Moon"—is really pre-programmed for dancing. The second side consists of shorter tracks at a slower pace, with the exception of an energized "Walk On By."



**EXTRAVAGANZA**

**STACKRIDGE—Sire SASD 7509 (ABC) (6.98)**

With titles like "No One's More Important Than the Earth Worm," "Benjamin's Giant Onion" and "The Indifferent Hedgehog" you know you're in for a bit of fun with your music. Stackridge has listened to a fair share of English music hallers and it just adds the right touch of irreverence.



**FUNKY KINGSTON**

**TOOTS & THE MAYTALS—Island ILPS 9330 (6.98)**

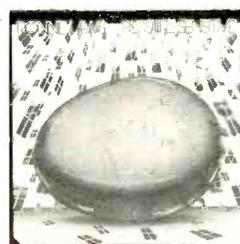
Reggae in its natural state—unadorned, uncomplicated and joyous, with just spare touches of the Sons of the Jungles on brass. "Pomp and Pride" has a very full sound and an excellent repeating chorus. "Love Is Gonna Let Me Down" starts as a typical ballad but soon opens up into a moderately paced reggae.



**EVERYBODY'S DOIN' THE HUSTLE & DEAD ON THE DOUBLE BUMP**

**JAMES BROWN—Polydor PD 6054 (6.98)**

With dancing back in the mainstream of popdom, one of the original soul kings comes on strong with his edition of the hustle, "Hustle!!! (Dead On It)" and new versions of "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag" and the Lieber and Stoller workhorse "Kansas City."



**PRESSURE SENSITIVE**

**RONNIE LAWS—Blue Note BN LA452-G (UA) (6.98)**

Brother to flautist Hubert Laws, reedman Ronnie has an excellent feel for flowing melodies and concise improvisations. The opening "Always There" starts things on the up-beat. Stevie Wonder's "Tell Me Something Good" finds him in good keyboard and ARP company to most interesting ends.



**DREAMING A DREAM**

**CROWN HEIGHTS AFFAIR—De-Lite DEP-2017 (6.98)**

Black octet moves to De-Lite with a double-barreled effort at reaching both the disco and the regular r&b markets. "Dreaming A Dream," for example, is offered in both disco and vocal versions. "Foxy" and "You Smiled" follow suit, respectively, without being mutually exclusive audience-wise.