

# SINGLE REVIEWS

## POP

### ► TIMMY T Over & Over (2:50)

PRODUCER: John Ryan  
WRITER: C. King  
PUBLISHERS: Careers/BMG/Big Kingpin/63rd St./Hot Wings, BMI  
Quality 1511-4 (cassette single)

Mr. T offers a midtempo, Latin-flavored follow-up to the No. 1 "One More Try." Whimsical love letter boasts crystal-clear production and a contagious hook that should keep the ball rolling at top 40 radio. Contact: 213-658-6796.

### ► TARA KEMP Piece Of My Heart (3:52)

PRODUCERS: Jake Smith, Tuhin Roy  
WRITERS: T. Kemp, J. Smith, T. Roy  
PUBLISHERS: Kallman/One Two, BMI  
REMIXERS: John Van Nest, Jake Smith, Tuhin Roy  
Giant 19474 (c/o Warner Bros.) (cassette single)

Funky R&B/dance follow-up to "Hold You Tight" works thanks to deft remixing that takes the album version of the song to a much higher level. A tempting slow groove is matched with Kemp's vulnerable, shining vocals, and should add up to yet another multiformat hit.

### ► BETTE MIDLER Moonlight Dancing (4:04)

PRODUCER: Arif Mardin  
WRITER: D. Warren  
PUBLISHERS: Realsongs/Edition Sunset/BMG Songs, ASCAP  
Atlantic 4-82129 (cassette single)

After a pair of ballads, Midler pumps up the tempo with this pop/dance tune from her double-platinum "Some People's Lives" disc. Tune has the bite to lure top 40 programmers but maintains a softness to keep AC fans happy.

### ► GERARDO We Want The Funk (3:56)

PRODUCER: Michael Sembello  
WRITERS: G. Mejia, G. Clinton Jr., W. Collins, J. Brailey  
PUBLISHERS: Mo' Ritmo/Bridgeport, BMI  
East West 4-38462 (c/o Atlantic) (cassette single)

Funk/rap follow-up to "Rico Suave" is a takeoff on Parliament's "Tear The Roof Off The Sucker (Give Up The Funk)" and offers a nifty blend of exotic word play and chugging, hip-hop beats.

### ► KANE ROBERTS Does Anybody Really Fall In Love Anymore? (3:59)

PRODUCER: Sir Arthur Payson  
WRITERS: D. Child, D. Warren, J. Bon Jovi, R. Sambora  
PUBLISHERS: EMI April/Desmobile/Realsongs/Bon Jovi/New Jersey Underground, ASCAP  
DGC 66037 (c/o UNI) (cassette single)

Anthemic pop/rocker is a fine forum for Kane's distinctively raw and raspy voice. Tune has begun to open doors at top 40 radio and should also earn attention in album rock.

### ★ DEBBIE GIBSON One Hand, One Heart (4:35)

PRODUCER: Debbie Gibson  
WRITER: D. Gibson  
PUBLISHER: Deborah Ann's Music, ASCAP  
Atlantic 4-87710 (cassette single)

Gibson is at her finest on this lovely ballad, lifted from her underrated "Anything Is Possible" set. She continues to prove here that she has songwriting and vocal talent that can transcend pop music's ever-changing trends. Top 40 radio should give her another chance.

### GARDNER COLE Whatever It Takes (4:18)

PRODUCERS: Gardner Cole, James Newton Howard  
WRITER: G. Cole  
PUBLISHERS: Sizzling Blue/Warner-Tamerlane, BMI  
Warner Bros. 4-19582 (cassette single)

Spacious synth-pop nugget soars above shimmering production that

focuses on Cole's breathy vocals. Satisfying remix cashes in on track's hip-hop base and might tempt club DJs to take notice. From his upcoming album "It's Your Life."

### TRENT DEAN Livin' It Up (5:45)

PRODUCER: Brian Tankersley  
WRITERS: T. Dean, B. Tankersley  
PUBLISHERS: Sony Songs/Nocturnal Eclipse, BMI  
REMIXER: Michael Hutchinson  
Chrysalis 23653 (c/o CEMA) (12-inch single)

Energetic pop/rap bauble laces frothy rhymes with gritty electric guitars and R&B-flavored backing vocals. Potential for airplay extends to both urban and pop radio.

### VANITY KILLS Give Me Your Heart (2:59)

PRODUCER: Julian Raymond  
WRITERS: E. Daniels, S. Baca  
PUBLISHERS: 2 Die 4/Falterious, BMI  
REMIXER: Francois Kevorkian  
Hollywood 83112 (cassette single)

L.A.-based trio offers a tasty slice of guitar-driven funk'n'roll that is further fueled by Eric Daniels' engaging vocals. Alternate version, postproduced by Francois Kevorkian, is dressed with poppy house elements. Either mix would be a fine addition to top 40 radio formats.

### SUNNI When The Shades Pull Down (5:33)

PRODUCERS: Mark Liggett, Chris Barbosa  
WRITER: not listed  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
Alpha International 4JM-70719 (cassette single; 12 inch version also available, Alpha International 73019)

Intriguing freestyle jam reverberates with playful keyboard slides and a vocal arrangement reminiscent of Exposé. Midtempo groove segues into a sexy male/female rap exchange that should appeal to urban radio and top 40 radio programmers. Club jocks shouldn't miss the pumping "Shady Hip-Hop" remix.

## R&B

### ► RALPH TRESVANT Do What I Gotta Do (4:39)

PRODUCERS: Jimmy Jam, Terry Lewis  
WRITERS: J. Harris III, T. Lewis  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
MCA 54035 (cassette single)

On the heels of "Stone Cold Gentleman" comes a lushly arranged ballad, warmed by Tresvant's earnest vocal delivery. Urban radio action is a given, though track is sweet enough to win at top 40 and AC as well.

## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

### DAMIAN DAME Exclusivity (4:43)

PRODUCERS: L.A. Reid, Babyface  
WRITERS: L.A. Reid, Babyface, Damian  
PUBLISHERS: Kears/Sony-Epic/Solar Songs, BMI/MacaDamian, ASCAP  
REMIXERS: L.A. Reid, Babyface  
LaFace/Arista 4000 (c/o BMG) (cassette single)

Premiere release on new label run by L.A. Reid & Babyface is an appetizing blend of traditional R&B and streetwise hip-hop. Vocal trade-off between singers Damian and Deah is at once smooth and harmonious and then loose and expressive. Hook is undeniably contagious and should find a welcome home at both pop and urban radio.

### ANGEL Your Love Just Ain't Right (4:40)

PRODUCERS: Andre & Keith Williams  
WRITERS: A. Williams, R. Turner, K. Williams  
PUBLISHERS: Regmon/Infamous/Virgin Songs, BMI  
REMIXERS: Freddy Bastone, Boris Granich, Brian Wray  
Virgin 4-98827 (c/o Atlantic) (cassette single; 12-inch version also available, Virgin 0-96363)

Photogenic Latino singer/dancer is already being hyped as the male equivalent to Paula Abdul. Fun first single has the potential to spark similar sales and radio success thanks to a catchy chorus, an insinuating pop/dance base, and Angel's breathy vocals. Remix by Freddy Bastone adds depth for club consumption.

## B I L L B O A R D

### ► THE O'JAYS Emotionally Yours (no timing listed)

PRODUCERS: Narada Michael Walden, Ron Fair  
WRITER: B. Dylan  
PUBLISHER: Special Rider, ASCAP  
EMI 50352 (c/o CEMA) (cassette single)

Title track from veteran trio's fine current album has already begun showing chart strength thanks to a smooth pop/R&B melody and richly textured harmonies. Flip side features a rousing and cathartic gospel version, featuring a choir that includes Will Downing, Cissy Houston, and Martha Wash, among others.

### ★ CHAAH Give Yourself To Me (5:46)

PRODUCER: Musica L.T.D.  
WRITERS: R. Arduini, M. Persona, A. Puntillo  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
Scorpio 1208 (12-inch single)

Riveting R&B/dance jam caresses the ear with its dramatic Snap-like pulses and Soul II Soul-ish bass line. Slow groove is topped with passionate deep-voiced crooning and spiraling synth-horns.

### ★ NIKETA WILSON Our Day Will Come (4:14)

PRODUCER: Willie Lester  
WRITERS: Hilliard, Garson  
PUBLISHER: Leeds, ASCAP  
DCI 1001 (12-inch single)

Sparkling interpretation of the Ruby & the Romantics classic touches the heart with Wilson's sunny performance. Crisp production includes glowing string slips, lush backing vocals, and a chugging swing beat. Will complement any urban playlist, though pop and AC programmers should take heed as well. Contact: 202-635-0464.

### GRAND DADDY I.U. Sugar Free (4:00)

PRODUCER: Biz Markie  
WRITERS: Grand Daddy I.U.  
PUBLISHER: Biz Markie/I.U., ASCAP  
Cold Chillin'/Reprise 4-19334 (c/o Warner Bros.) (cassette single)

Sultry second shot from the "Smooth Assassin" set is a "he says, she says" exchange that is supported by a sweet, cooing female chorus. Grand Daddy spills a few chilly rhymes that reinforce his free-agent status.

## COUNTRY

### ► HANK WILLIAMS JR. If It Will It Will (3:21)

PRODUCERS: Barry Beckett, Hank Williams Jr., Jim Ed Norman  
WRITER: H. Williams Jr.  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
Warner Bros./Curb 19352 (7-inch single)

A bumpersticker slogan with a beat. As usual, Williams rocks far more effectively than he philosophizes.

### ► PATTY LOVELESS Blue Memories (2:51)

PRODUCER: Tony Brown  
WRITERS: P. Kenerley, K. Brooks  
PUBLISHERS: Irving/Littlemarch, BMI  
MCA 54075 (7-inch single)

Loveless paints a stark and poignant picture of loss and regret, illuminated by vivid sketches of the past.

### ► DON WILLIAMS Lord Have Mercy On A Country Boy (2:56)

PRODUCERS: Don Williams, Garth Fundis  
WRITER: B. McDill  
PUBLISHERS: PolyGram/Ranger Bob, ASCAP  
RCA 2820-7 (c/o BMG) (7-inch single)

Writer McDill paints the picture with words, while Williams' faithful vocals lend interpretation and the instrumentation blends the elements together.

## DANCE

### ► SAFIRE Taste The Bass (6:25)

PRODUCER: David Morales  
WRITERS: E. Beall, S. Lunt  
PUBLISHERS: Almo, ASCAP/Perfect Punch, BMI  
REMIXER: David Morales  
Mercury 868305-1 (c/o PolyGram) (12-inch single)

Latin diva sidesteps her signature freestyle in favor of a cheeky hip-house rave. Techno-hip beats courtesy of Morales slam hard while Safire struts with confidence. Has the juice to go where "Made Up My Mind" didn't.

### ► FRONT 242 Rhythm Of Time (7:46)

PRODUCERS: Daniel B., Patrick C.  
WRITERS: D. Bressanutti, P. Codenys, J.L. DeMeyer, Richard JK  
PUBLISHER: Les Editions Confidentielles  
REMIXER: The Orb  
Epic 49-73767 (c/o Sony) (12-inch single)

Act that scored recently with "Tragedy For You" pumps an insistent industrial/NRG beat under a slicing melange of synth-generated sound effects and samples. Peak-hour pleasure for alternative-minded spinners, while mainstreamers may find this useful for early-a.m. sets.

### ► ELECTRONIC Get The Message (5:23)

PRODUCERS: Bernard Sumner, Johnny Marr  
WRITERS: B. Sumner, J. Marr  
PUBLISHERS: Warner-Chappell  
REMIXERS: DNA  
Warner Bros. 21832-0 (12-inch single; CD version also available, Warner Bros. 21832-2)

Second collaboration between New Order's Bernard Sumner and ex-Smith Johnny Marr comes in two notably different incarnations. One is a sedate and atmospheric swing/hip-hopper that club DJs will heartily feast on. The other is an acoustic-anchored modern popper, excellent for alternative radio. Either way, you can't lose.

### ► D.J.H. FEATURING STEFY Oh Yeah (Think About...) (5:30)

PRODUCER: not listed  
WRITER: M. Bongiovanni  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
REMIXER: Paul Oakenfold  
RCA 2816-1 (c/o BMG) (12-inch single)

Italian hip-house rave is already a fave among import-smart spinners. Track drips with nifty samples, including Aretha Franklin's whoops from "Rock-A-Lott." A fun affair that will send disco divas squealing onto the dance floor.

### ★ SCANDALOUS FEATURING M.J. WHITE Still Irresistible (6:27)

PRODUCER: "Ed The Red" Goltsman, "Nancy Kay" Goltsman  
WRITERS: E. Goltsman, M.J. White, N. Goltsman  
PUBLISHER: Suslik, BMI  
REMIXER: Bill "Makossa" Stokes  
Atlantic 86039 (12-inch single)

Song's title says it all. Track is a memorable mix of percussive hip-hop/funk rhythms, diva-style vocals, and well-placed samples. A midtempo gem that would work any hour of the evening. Don't let this one get lost in the shuffle.

### PROMISE OF PREMISE Work It (no timing listed)

PRODUCER: not listed  
WRITER: not listed  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
Radikal 12198 (12-inch single)

Italo-house trinket uses swirling synth slides and seductive vocal echoes to create an enticing, ethereal groove. For added pleasure, flip to the dazzling funk/house "Don't Try To Change Me" mix on side B. Contact: 212-246-5520.

### THE WORD R U Ready (For Love) (no timing listed)

PRODUCER: Mike Koglin  
WRITER: M. Koglin  
PUBLISHER: Castle Hill Music  
REMIXER: Mike Koglin  
Invasion Records 01 (12-inch single)

Pulsating light house breeze gingerly soars over samples that include crowd cheers and R&B choral cooing. Wiry keyboard pulses intertwined with captivating piano lines add to the intrigue and make this a delightful after-hours elixir. Contact: 212-532-1414.

## ROCK TRACKS

### ► THE DOOBIE BROTHERS Dangerous (4:38)

PRODUCER: Rodney Mills  
WRITER: not listed  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
Capitol 79662 (c/o CEMA) (cassette single)

First shot from venerable band's new "Brotherhood" set bears the marks of their classic hits: aggressive guitar riffs, blues-etched horns and rhythms, and male-bonding lyrics. Songs like this work best when cranked at peak volume while speeding down a highway. Truly kickin'.

### ► GLENN FREY Part Of You, Part Of Me (4:16)

PRODUCER: Don Was  
WRITER: G. Frey, J. Tempchin  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
MCA 54060 (cassette single)

Frey ends an extended recording silence with this infectious, acoustic-framed tune from the soundtrack to "Thelma & Louise." Eagles fans will happily note the similarities to the classic-rock band's early hits. A must for album-rock programmers, while AC and top 40 should come aboard, too.

### ★ PETER HIMMELMAN Woman With The Strength Of 10,000 Men (4:52)

PRODUCER: Peter Himmelman  
WRITER: P. Himmelman  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
Epic 4003 (c/o Sony) (CD promo only)

Himmelman previews his new "From Strength To Strength" album with this lyrically sensitive rocker that has the muscle to finally place him among the rock radio elite—where he belongs.

### SKINNY PUPPY Spasmodic (7:18)

PRODUCERS: David Ogilvie, Cevin Key  
WRITERS: C. Key, Goettel, Ogre  
PUBLISHER: Nettoverboard, PRO  
Netwerk/Capitol 15702 (c/o CEMA) (12-inch single)

Fiendish industrial-dance splattering from the upcoming "Too Dark Park" set shocks the senses with its ghoulish murmuring, frenzied synth-whips, and haphazard chatter. Headbanging college radio outlets should find this a delicious mind-altering affair.

## RAP

### ★ EURO-K Inner City Blues (4:32)

PRODUCERS: Euro-K, Spon Jets  
WRITERS: M. Gaye, J. Nys Jr.  
PUBLISHERS: Jobete, ASCAP  
Profile 7325 (12-inch single)

Marvin Gaye's nugget serves as the inspiration for a well-written and painfully honest take on survival on poverty- and crime-ridden streets. Smooth bass and keyboard fills could help spark deserved urban radio action.

### GANG STARR Love Sick (3:57)

PRODUCERS: DJ Premier, The Guru  
WRITERS: The Guru, Keith E.E.  
PUBLISHERS: Gifted Pearl/Almo, ASCAP  
Chrysalis V-23676 (c/o CEMA) (12-inch single)

Slinky slow/funk shot from act's "Step In The Arena" set tells the story of one unlucky dude's love fiasco. Jazzy horns sluggishly mingle with downtrodden rhymes and a streetwise bass line that could transfer over to urban levels.

### THE BTX This Jam Is Black (4:50)

PRODUCERS: Havelock Nelson, Ira McLaughlin  
WRITER: L. Mime  
PUBLISHERS: Adra/McLaughlin, BMI  
Select 62378 (12-inch single)

Sinuous tirade intertwines chugging James Brown samples with proud, positive rhymes that attempt to elevate an impoverished nation. Gritty, rapid-fire "Ghetto" version works best and could garner some attention at urban radio. Contact: 212-691-1200.

PICKS (►): New releases with the greatest chart potential.

CRITIC'S CHOICE (★): New releases, regardless of potential chart action, which the reviewer highly recommends because of their musical merit.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY: Highlights new and developing acts worthy of attention.

Cassette, vinyl or CD singles equally appropriate for more than one format are reviewed in the category with the broadest audience. All releases available to radio and/or retail in the U.S. are eligible for review. Send copies to Larry Flick, Billboard, 1515 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036. Country singles should be sent to Billboard, 49 Music Square W., Nashville, Tenn. 37203.