

# Single Reviews

EDITED BY LARRY FLICK

## POP

### ► RHYTHM SYNDICATE I Wanna Make Love To You (3:59)

PRODUCERS: Carl Sturken, Evan Rogers  
WRITERS: C. Sturken, E. Rogers  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
REMIXER: Bobby Konders  
Impact 2315 (c/o Uni) (cassette single)

Band that stirred up top 40 action last year with "P.A.S.S.I.O.N." is back with a bottom-heavy jam that infuses dancehall nuances with a funk-fortified beat and a fluffy, contagious pop melody. Surprisingly original and refreshing cut deserves to glide onto playlists at several formats out of the box. Those with more than a fleeting interest in reggae will dig Bobby Konders' lively remix.

### ► JUDE COLE Start The Car (no timing listed)

PRODUCERS: Jude Cole, James Newton Howard  
WRITER: J. Cole  
PUBLISHERS: EMI-Blackwood/Colesian, BMI  
Reprise 18793 (c/o Warner Bros.) (cassette single)

With his fine 1990 set, "View From 3rd Street," Cole quietly churned out one delicious pop/rock single after another. The title cut from his new album holds promise of catapulting him beyond his previous top 40 success and straight into the top 10. Chugging, horn-framed rocker is fueled with an instantly catchy chorus, and strong guitar/rhythm interplay.

### FIREHOUSE When I Look Into Your Eyes (4:00)

PRODUCER: David Prater  
WRITERS: C.J. Snare, B. Laverly  
PUBLISHERS: Sony Tunes/Wocka-Wocka; ASCAP  
Epic 74440 (c/o Sony) (cassette single)

Pop/metal band unleashes its romantic firepower with a big play for power-ballad fans. Fittingly, the song features a big synth sound and some big emotional guitar solos. Though a bit purple in the prose department, healthy Hot 100 debut last week hints that this cut might tug the heartstrings of top 40 listeners.

### ★ GIGGLES He Said, She Said (3:52)

PRODUCER: Charlie "Rock" Jimenez  
WRITER: C. Jimenez  
PUBLISHERS: Charlie Rock/It's The Time, BMI  
Cutting 264 (cassette single)

New York-based freestyle siren follows "What Goes Around Comes Around" with an equally appealing Latin-dance ditty. Her frail-but-charming voice pops over a kickin' groove coated with a slick pop sheen that will keep crossover and top 40 radio interest budding. Remixes empower track with notable club potential. Look for Giggles' debut album, "He Loves Me . . . He Loves Me Not." Contact: 212-567-4900.

### COREY HART Always (4:26)

PRODUCER: Richard Perry  
WRITER: C. Hart  
PUBLISHERS: Corey Hart/Liesse, ASCAP  
Sire 18778 (c/o Warner Bros.) (cassette single)

It's a shame more people haven't chosen to investigate Hart's tasty "Attitude & Virtue" album. With luck, this rhythmic pop ballad will change that. His distinctive phrasing adds dimension to romantic lyrics, and holds firm against the track's shuffling beat. A cut above typical power ballads, this would fit nicely within both top 40 and AC formats.

### ★ CLUBLAND FEATURING ZEMIA HAMILTON Hypnotized (4:13)

PRODUCERS: Eric Kupper, Clubland  
WRITERS: Z. Hamilton, V. Ingrosso  
PUBLISHER: Madhouse, BMI  
REMIXER: Peter "Ski" Schwartz  
Great Jones 537617 (c/o Island) (cassette single)

Fab Euro-dance act continues to issue exemplary pop/housers, deftly embellishing hard beats with cool and radio-friendly melodies. Of course, the shining light of any Clubland cut is Zemia Hamilton's formidable vocal capability; she soars and softens at whiplash speed. Skip the incongruous techno mix, and stick with the virtually flawless album edits.

### AUTO & CHEROKEE Taste (4:47)

PRODUCERS: Keith Cohen, Auto & Cherokee  
WRITERS: Auto & Cherokee  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
REMIXER: Steve Peck  
Morgan Creek 26002 (cassette single)

Charismatic husband/wife team shimmies its way through a familiar-yet-sexy pop/funk jam. Breathily, Prince-like vocals and syncopated beats are tailor-made for top 40 and urban playlists. Programmers are advised to pass on the bland and generic dance remixes, and go directly to the album version.

### TRY'N'B Tell Me Where It Hurts (4:05)

PRODUCER: Frank Farian  
WRITER: D. Warren  
PUBLISHER: Realsongs, ASCAP  
RCA 62342 (c/o BMG) (cassette single)

Producer Frank Farian, aka the man behind Milli Vanilli, unveils his latest project: a chirpy act that tweets its way through a sugary pop tune. Male/female vocal tradeoff lacks the personality to push it over the top, though Farian has created an appealing rhythm base that might spark minor top 40 play.

### JOHN PAGANO Let's Get To It (4:15)

PRODUCER: Nick Mundy  
WRITERS: A. Armato, N. Mundy  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
MCA 2004 (c/o Uni) (cassette single)

Thanks to Pagano's considerable vocal ability, this otherwise bland and formulaic pop/jack affair rises above the competition with radio possibilities. Track could use a more imaginative remix to push it over the top, though some crossover programmers are likely to extend a welcoming hand, regardless.

### BALLS (I'm A) Boy Watcher (3:17)

PRODUCER: not listed  
WRITER: not listed  
PUBLISHER: Drive-In  
Now 1292 (cassette single)

Genre-bending take on the '60s-era nugget "(I'm A) Girl Watcher" will jolt some with its swaggering gay male rapping. Go beyond its initial shock value and you'll find a kickin' hip-hopper, fueled by clever rhymes and thick harmonies. A portion of the profits from this single will be donated to AIDS Project Los Angeles. Contact: 213-851-2254.

## R & B

### ► AL B. SURE! Right Now (4:20)

PRODUCERS: Al B. Sure!, Kyle West  
WRITERS: Al B. Sure!, K. West  
PUBLISHERS: Al B. Sure! Industries, Willane, ASCAP  
Warner Bros. 18845 (cassette single)

On this first peek into Al's third outing, "Sexy Versus," he displays a somewhat more mature vocal style. Overall, though, the song doesn't stray from the formula that has made him one of the R&B community's leading Romeos: a slow and grinding groove, covered with richly

## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

### CHARLES & EDDIE Would I Lie To You? (3:40)

PRODUCER: Josh Deutsch  
WRITERS: M. Leeson, P. Vale  
PUBLISHER: Virgin Songs, BMI  
REMIXERS: Dave Way, Smash Hunter, Joe "The Butcher" Nicolo, Ben Wolf & Andy Dean  
Capitol 15879 (c/o CEMA) (cassette single)

Male duo is quickly picking up pop radio adds with this delightful twirl into retro-R&B territory. Rich lead vocals are supported by Motown-styled harmonies, rumbling Hammond organ fills, and an insinuating, live drum beat. A variety of remixes take the song through a number of twists and turns, which should help in getting airplay at AC and urban radio. Be aware of their forthcoming debut album, "Duophonic."

layered backing vocals, and oh-so-seductive bedtime lyrics. An urban smash upon impact, posters would be wise to take note of this track, too.

### ► TYLER COLLINS It Doesn't Matter (4:09)

PRODUCERS: Andres Levin, Camus Celli  
WRITERS: S. Garrett, C. Celli, A. Levin  
PUBLISHERS: Virgin Songs/Boneless, BMI; Virgin/Cool  
Banana/Black Chick/WB, ASCAP  
RCA 62325 (c/o BMG) (cassette single)

At long last, the campaign in support of Collins' highly touted second album, "Tyler," is about to kick in. She is a sparkling presence within a languid R&B/funk setting, ably produced by Andres Levin and Camus Celli. An unshakable chorus wafts over a pronounced beat that is spare enough to focus on Collins' pretty alto. A pure delight.

### ► EUGENE WILDE Special Feelings (4:13)

PRODUCER: George Duke  
WRITER: E. Wilde  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
MCA 2340 (c/o Uni) (cassette single)

You can always count on Wilde to deliver the goods, and this first single from his new "How About Tonight" set is no exception. He adds depth to an otherwise standard-issue R&B love song. Producer George Duke smartly keeps the track from falling into a vat of overwrought clichés. Cool for urban-ites and AC pundits as well.

### ★ MILIRA Three's A Crowd (4:10)

PRODUCER: Lemel Humes  
WRITER: N. Calhoun Jr.  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
Apollo/Motown 631068 (c/o PGD) (cassette single)

With each successive release, Milira proves herself as a diva with a vocal force and emotional range that few can match. And yet, she is still without the high level of consumer and critical appreciation she deserves. On this "other woman" slow R&B jam, she bypasses the trap of playing the victim, opting instead to give the lyrics a strong, almost defiant attitude. One of the jewels that comprises the current "Milira Back Again" set.

### M&M Get Ta Know Ya Betta (4:11)

PRODUCERS: Down Low Productions  
WRITERS: D. Guppy, M. McClurkin  
PUBLISHERS: Down Low/Marsha Mack's, BMI  
Atlantic 4691 (cassette single)

Female duo cuts loose with street-hip panache inside a sunny R&B environment. Festive, shoulder-shaking jam evokes memories of '70s-era disco/funk à la Stephanie Mills, et al. Radio programmers will be lured initially by the finger-waving chat/rap break in the middle, as well as the track's chunky beats.

### WENDY MOTEN Step By Step (3:24)

PRODUCERS: Troy Taylor, Charles Farrar  
WRITERS: T. Taylor, C. Farrar  
PUBLISHERS: Kharatroy/B. Black/Chrysalis, ASCAP  
REMIXER: Ben Grosse  
EM/ERG 50394 (c/o CEMA) (cassette single)

If it weren't for Moten's sassy and comfortable style, this color-by-numbers pop/jack jumper would simply fade into the background. A more imaginative remix to match her fun performance would increase track's chances of success. As it stands, it will likely be a tough, uphill battle. Still, Moten is a talent to keep an eye on.

## COUNTRY

### DON WILLIAMS Catfish Bates (2:28)

PRODUCER: Allen Reynolds  
WRITER: A. Harvey  
PUBLISHERS: EMI U Catalog/Big Ax, ASCAP  
RCA 62317 (c/o BMG) (7-inch single)

Williams paints a droll and affectionate portrait of the aptly named title character.

### DARRYL & DON ELLIS No Sir (3:51)

PRODUCER: James Stroud  
WRITERS: S. Dean, B. Montana, D. Ellis  
PUBLISHERS: Tom Collins/Music Corp. of America. Brand

New Town, BMI/Midnight Crow, ASCAP  
Epic 74454 (c/o Sony) (cassette single)

A young man reveals his feelings for and commitment to a young woman during a chat with her father. Such a realistic picture is painted that this listener got butterflies during the boy's dialog. Sweet, sensitive, and innocent.

## DANCE

### ► RYUICHI SAKAMOTO Heartbeat (6:05)

PRODUCER: Ryuichi Sakamoto  
WRITERS: R. Sakamoto, J. Cohen, S. Tomeii  
PUBLISHERS: Kab/Virgin/Penzafire, ASCAP  
REMIXERS: Satoshi Tomeii, Patrick Dillet, Ryuichi Sakamoto  
Virgin 12697 (c/o CEMA) (12-inch single)

Composer/producer/musician previews his third album of the same name with a luscious, New York-fashioned deep-houser. Lead vocals by Dee Dee Brave shimmer and glisten over a groove that is textured with jazz-spiced piano lines, sweeping rhythms, and percolating percussion breaks. Flip the record over and check out Sakamoto's collaboration with David Sylvian on "Heartbeat: Returning To The Womb," a sullen, ambient tune. A massive club hit is in the offing.

### ★ BAHAMEN Back To The Island (7:00)

PRODUCER: Kendall Stubbs  
WRITERS: R. Butler, E. Rolle  
PUBLISHERS: Baha Men Entertainment/Kallman, BMI  
REMIXER: Tommy D  
Big Beat/Atlantic 4679 (12-inch single)

World-beat band courts club DJs with bright and cheery dance track. Lighthearted incantations are gleefully chanted, while Caribbean horns and understated guitars swirl about. A left-of-center treat that will work best with DJs who aren't afraid to stray from the same old house or techno sound.

### DSK I'll Keep Holdin' On (6:32)

PRODUCERS: DSK  
WRITERS: L. Julian Davis, J. Stone, P. Klein  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
REMIXERS: Eric Kupper, Mohamed Moretta  
Active 8620 (c/o Elektra) (12-inch single)

Producer-driven act switches labels for this disco-framed houser. Nothing earth-shattering here, just a peppy jam with a sing-along chorus and an attitudinal lead vocal that apes Sarah Vaughan and Eartha Kitt. Not every track has to change the world, it just has to make you wanna dance—and this one certainly does.

### ★ BAS NOIR Shoo-B-Do (6:05)

PRODUCERS: Kern Chandler, Dee Dee Brave  
WRITERS: K. Chandler, M. Bivins, M. Ridley  
PUBLISHERS: Mamma's Boy/Black Stockings, ASCAP  
REMIXERS: Kern Chandler, Dee Dee Brave, Tony Humphries, Ben Mays  
Atlantic 1871 (12-inch single)

It's a shame more people have not been enlightened to this femme duo's delicious debut album, "Ah . . . Bas Noir!" A slew of New Jersey-fashioned deep-house remixes of this body-invading twirler could possibly change that. Powerful lead vocals are supported by a wriggling bass line, and saloon-style piano playing. Break a sweat.

### D.O.P. Groovy Beat (5:22)

PRODUCERS: Hurry, Swain  
WRITERS: Hurry, Swain  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
Guerrilla/Tribal America 13865 (c/o CEMA) (12-inch single)

Trance-like hard-houser has been a hit among club DJs here and abroad on U.K. import for a while now. One new mix by the act will keep those folks in line a little longer, while others will revel in all four versions of a track that balances a staccato electro beat with hypnotic vocal patches, and pulsating synth passages.

## AC

### LINDA RONSTADT Frenesi (3:30)

PRODUCERS: Peter Asher, George Massenburg  
WRITER: A. Dominguez

PUBLISHER: Peer International, BMI  
Elektra 8626 (cassette single)

La Ronstadt previews an upcoming collection of mambo-style tunes with a squeaky-clean ditty that will open the genre up to middle America—though purists may chuckle at the homogeneity of this outing. We can't help but wonder what's next on her increasingly cultured musical agenda. Aye poppi!

## ROCK TRACKS

### ► WARRANT Machine Gun (3:43)

PRODUCER: Michael Wagener  
WRITER: J. Lane  
PUBLISHER: Virgin Songs, Dick Dragon, BMI  
Columbia 4685 (c/o Sony) (CD promo)

Headbangers return with their most aggressive single in some time. Producer Michael Wagener tightly weaves together intricate guitar leads, rumbling rhythm chords, and a well-shaded vocal by Jani Lane. May be too hard for fans at top 40, though album rockers will herald what is clearly the band's strongest entry to date. Look for group's new album, "Dog Eat Dog."

### ► SUZANNE VEGA Blood Makes Noise (2:28)

PRODUCER: Mitchell Room  
WRITER: S. Vega  
PUBLISHERS: WB/Wafersongs, ASCAP  
A&M 8018 (c/o PGD) (cassette single)

DNA's 1990 dance remix of "Tom's Diner" has apparently had a profound effect on Vega, who momentarily eschews the folk vibe of previous recordings to create this rhythmic rocker. Instrumentation is joltingly industrial, while Vega's icy delivery of intriguing, cryptic lyrics is fed through a voice-altering filter. An excellent entry for alternative formats, while sophisticated posters are advised to take heed, too.

### THE MIGHTY LEMON DROPS Into The Sun (2:55)

PRODUCERS: Nick Robbins, The Mighty Lemon Drops  
WRITER: D. Newton  
PUBLISHER: Unlisted  
Sire/Reprise 5574 (CD Promo)

Although not as intense as its title might suggest, this tune is still worthy of alternative radio programmers' attention. Band stacks some nice harmonies atop weighty guitars, and throws in some noise to keep things slightly off-balance.

### MARY'S DANISH Leave It Alone b/w Underwater (4:02/3:33)

PRODUCER: Peter Asher  
WRITERS: Mary's Danish  
PUBLISHERS: Deep Blue Funk/Dibertdad/Drummer Boy/Maudi/McFuzz/Spinning Avenue/Music Corporation of America, BMI  
Morgan Creek 0028 (CD single)

Double-A-sided single finds alternative band exploring its heavier side and achieving favorable results. Oddly, the songs here seem of slightly different genres. Punky metal riffs and heavy harmonies will land "Leave It Alone" squarely at modern-rock outlets. "Underwater," meanwhile, veers toward album-rock territory, staking out ground somewhere between X and Heart. Production lends a particular clarity to percussion and guitars.

## RAP

### LORDS OF THE UNDERGROUND Psycho (3:59)

PRODUCER: Marley Marl  
WRITERS: A. Wardrick, D. Kelly, M. Williams  
PUBLISHER: Marley Marl; ASCAP  
Pendulum 66383 (c/o Elektra) (cassette single)

Droning chants and laid-back beats are the backbone for raps that name-check Bam-Bam ("the kid from Bedrock"), Obi Wan Kenobi, and Cypress Hill. The slightly scary, whispered chorus of "Psycho, psycho" is catchy but overshadowed by wordy verses.

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.