Joni Mitchell, who has always had problems get-ting her albums finished on time, may not have her new one ready for the Elektra-Asylum Christmas release after all. So far she has recorded only four songs. Ac-cording to an E/A source, she is getting deeper and deeper into jazz. Barring a furious, 11th-hour effort by 79 Mitchell, the album won't be out until early next year . . The new Rod Stewart album will be released at the end of this month. It's called "Blondes Have More Fun" and was produced by Tom Dowd. Warner Bros. doesn't know whether Stewart will tour to promote the album . . . "Minute by Minute" by the Doobie Bros. will be out next month. The group is currently on tour . . . Lulu, Los Angeles Times the English singer who had the big hit "To Sir With Love" in the '60s, is working on an album for Rocket Records.

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