

Picks of the Week

JIM CROCE (ABC 11424)

I'll Have To Say I Love You In A Song (2:47) (Blendingwell, ASCAP—J. Croce)

The legacy of the late Jim Croce is fully apparent in this tender, beautiful love ballad that is a certain Top 5 record in the near future. Culled from what many say was his best LP, "I Got A Name," this Jim Croce winner is yet another in the long, long line of songs that best portrayed the singer in life. Just no way that this is going to miss. Flip: no info. available.

DEEP PURPLE (Warner Brothers 7784)

Might Just Take Your Life (3:35) (Purple, BMI—Blackmore, Lord, Paice, Coverdale)

Remember "Smoke On The Water?" Well, this new one from the Purple, from their new LP, is in that same league with the very same top of the pops potential. Considering the fact that the group is about to tour Stateside, this one should be carried to the top in short order. Purple proves that heavy still makes 'em happy. Flip: no info. available.

AL WILSON (Rocks Road 30076)

Touch And Go (3:09) (Fullness, BMI—J. Fuller)

When a singer hits the top of the charts, there is no rule that states the follow up is an "automatic," but in the case of Al Wilson, a very soulful man he, it seems almost a necessary statement. This one, only slightly reminiscent of his "Show And Tell," is a monster in itself as Al lets loose with a performance destined to be talked about for some time to come. Also listen for the similarity to a Lou Rawls performance. This man is on the hit track, and that should be "automatic" for some time to come. Flip: no info. available.

ALICE COOPER (Warner Brothers 7783)

Muscle Of Love (3:23) (Ezra, BMI—Bruce, Cooper)

The title track from their latest LP is the next Alice Cooper hitbound and that it shall be instantly. Hard driving rocker with a couple of good, solid hooks and some fine special effects keep Alice on the hit track, right where they belong. Shouldn't say this one's got chart "muscle" but in this case it's necessary. Flip: no info. available.

IAN LLOYD & STORIES (Kama Sutra 588)

If It Feels Good, Do It (2:48) (Ceasers/Emerald City/Larry Cox, ASCAP—J. Stevenson)

Hits, hits, hits. That's what this group has become and this definite, no doubt about it, Top 5 rocker will re-establish this group in that cozy little niche for a good, long time to come. Stories' music (with a strong accent on keyboards), Ian Lloyds hard driving vocals and a great female back up chorus makes this track a funky delight. Another feather in the caps of Stories and their producers Kenny Kerner and Richie Wise. Flip: no info. available.

JONI MITCHELL (Asylum 11034)

Help Me (3:22) (Crazy Crow, BMI—J. Mitchell)

A departure from her last, "Raised On Robbery," this Joni Mitchell hitbound should immediately attract her usual following with this soft track from her "Court And Spark" LP, but it should also attract a ton of new fans due to the strong vocal performance and fine musical backing. Joni is hotter than ever before, and for every reason her last didn't go to the top, this one will. Phones are already ringing. Flip: no info. available.

JOHNNY RIVERS (Atlantic 3011)

Sitting In Limbo (4:20) (Irving, BMI—J. Cliff, G. Bright)

Johnny's first for his new label is this very pretty reggae flavored ballad that beautifully brings the man into his tenth year of performing and should also bring him prominently back onto the charts. Vocally, that soft, sunburned Southern voice is as great as ever, and puts across some great lyrics as only Johnny can. Definitely going places! Flip: Artists And Poets (3:50) (WB/Rivers, ASCAP—J. Rivers, M. Georgiades)

THINK (Featuring Lou Stallman) (Big Tree 15000)

Once You Understand (3:55) (Songs For Everybody, BMI—L. Stallman, B. Sussner)

If this one seems a bit familiar, it should. It was originally released over three years ago on another label and now reappears as a timely statement on the "generation gap" with a tragic ending. There's a lot of truth here, and coming on the heels of "Americans," this one should be an immediate chartbuster. And, hey, the music's good, too. Flip: no info. available.

QUEEN (Elektra 45884)

Liar (3:03) (Feldman/Trident, ASCAP—Queen)

Culled from their hard rocking American debut collection, this top flight, tightly delivered rocker is a definite smash in the coming weeks and one that should establish this band for some time to come. Accent here is on bass and lead guitar with energetic lead vocal and harmony performances that will attract most ears on first listen. Watch out. Queen's comin' on and that's the truth! Flip: no info. available.

EDDIE HOLMAN (Silver Blue 897)

You're My Lady (Right Or Wrong) (3:37) (Silver Blue/Martinelli, ASCAP—J. Diamond, A. Kenneth)

The man who hit big with "Hey There Lonely Girl" a couple of years back is right back in the picture with this great ballad certain to immediately crossover from r&b charts to pop listings and re-establish his standing as a truly dynamic vocalist. Eddie's still hitting those high ones and putting across as much emotion in his material as ever. This one shouldn't miss with some proper airplay and label backing. An eye on Eddie Holman is the right thing to do right now. Flip: no info. available.

THE CHAMBERS BROTHERS (Avco 4632)

Lets Go, Let's Go, Let's Go (3:00) (Lois, BMI—H. Ballard)

The gospel beginnings of this rocker immediately prove that the Chambers Brothers are in a better place than ever before and are ready to strike the charts all over again. Jimmy Ienner produced and its common knowledge about his previous success with good, rocking tracks. Pop and r&b markets will hop on this one immediately. Flip: no info. available.

COMMANDER CODY AND HIS LOST PLANET AIRMEN (Paramount 0278)

Riot In Cell Block #9 (2:48) (Quintet/Freddy Bienstock, BMI—J. Lieber, M. Stoller)

The classic Lieber-Stoller track originally recorded by the Coasters (also recently re-arranged by the Beach Boys) gets yet another vibrant, rocking treatment from the Commander and the boys (with a few very tasty lead guitar licks thrown in) as it sets its charge up the charts. No way this one won't be the group's biggest since "Hot Rod Lincoln." After all, the group is hotter than ever before. Flip: no info. available.

DON REED (MGM 14710)

She's My Lady (2:50) (Leslie Ann Gary, ASCAP—D. Reed)

A total delight in the magic of funk is this disk from Don Reed who has a certain chart buster once a few stations get going on this top flight pop/r&b crossover item. Great lyrics (a lot of 'em, too) and delightful throughout and delivered perfectly. The backing music is icing for the cake, and a tasty one it is. This one will do it to you after just one spin, no foolin'. Flip: no info. available.

ADRIAN SMITH (Buddah 402)

Ellie Mae Jones (3:52) (Famous, ASCAP—B. Flax, L. Lambert)

Great story line of a country girl in the big city is put across perfectly by Adrian, a foxy young talent with a great future as a performer. The vocal blends with fine music and a solid string section in making for a very infectious track certain to attract attention in most pop markets. Should be the lady's first hit, with more to come. Flip: The Last Things (2:52) (Credits same as above)

THE B. C. GENERATION (Casablanca 0002)

My Happy Birthday Baby (3:33) (Stone Diamond/Tanny Boy, BMI/Kenny Nolan, ASCAP—B. Crewe, K. Nolan)

The Bob Crewe hit making machine is at it again on their new label with this soft track destined to become a favorite with folks of all ages. The power of the track is in its universal flavor and should immediately attract pop and MOR markets. Good rhythm section and fine string arrangement make it even better. Flip: no info. available.

DAVID T. WALKER (Ode 66042)

I Got Work To Do (4:12) (Triple Three, BMI—Isley Brothers)

A fine instrumental performance from the man that is obviously going to become one of the most respected guitarists in pop/jazz circles today (that's of course when folks discover him, he's already got the talent). The pretty blend of pop and jazz works just fine here and the end result is a very entertaining track that will hit many markets hard. Hitbound! Flip: no info. available.

LENNY WELCH (Mainstream 5554)

Eyewitness News (2:39) (Lifestyle, BMI—McCoy, Welch)

Lenny re-arranges his performing style and comes through powerfully here with a chart busting item filled with funk. In what is his most potentially hit bound item since the '60's, this track proves that a performer can come back and grow musically and be able to attract an entirely new audience. Lenny looks stronger than ever here and looks to be embarking on a very successful venture. Flip: no info. available.

ARTHUR PRYSOCK (Old Town 103)

Colour My World (2:32) (Northern, ASCAP—Higginbotham, Drake, Fisher)

Arthur, who has had more success than many performers around today in both pop and r&b markets, covers this classic Chicago tune in his own inimitable blues style that will definitely rocket this track to the top of the r&b charts and receive goodly action on the pop front. A fine track and what a delivery! Flip: Good Morning Blues (3:08) (Maureen, BMI—Levy, Fillings)

Newcomer Picks

KISS (Casablanca 0004)

Nothin' To Lose (3:26) (Casablanca/Rock Steady, ASCAP—Simmons)

One of the finest, new heavy metal bands to come out of New York City in some time debuts here (with Kerner-Wise at the controls) with a very heavy, very tasty rocker reminiscent of Deep Purple, yet able to stand freely alone on its own merits. Look out for this band, they will happen, and big, in the coming weeks. This rocker is just the beginning. Flip: no info. available.

CHRIS GLENDON (GRC 1016)

My Fellow Americans (3:11) (Benders, BMI—C. Glendon, W. Henley, J. Carroll)

The success of the "Americans" disk has prompted many covers and mock covers and this is seemingly the best of that lot to date. Chris Glendon, in fairly convincing Richard Nixon mimick, delivers a subtly funny track based on that "Americans" track that has already attracted attention in major markets across the country. Look for this one to be a genuine success in the near future. Remember, it's always healthy to laugh at your problems, even though these days it seems a little more difficult to do just that. Flip: Saga Of A Secluded Swamp Monster (2:47) (Act One, BMI—B. Abernathy, S. Carey, J. C. Coleman, B. Tate)

JACKSON (Americana 1001)

Don't Wanna Lose The Good Times (3:42) (Talladega/Great Western, BMI—A. Stockdale)

That big, funky arrangement, full of a very strong horn section, when fronted by this lady's great lead vocals makes this track one that should be of interest to both pop and r&b markets and should be a powerful start for this new label. Watch this lady. She is already making her mark. Flip: Pretty Bird (3:56) (Great Western, BMI—S. Robinson)

BERTHA BELLE BROWNE (Mainstream 5551)

I'm A Song (Sing Me) (3:07) (Don Kirshner, BMI—Sedaka, Greenfield)

Talented newcomer debuts with this Sedaka-Greenfield tune and in making it work makes for a potential chart item. Soft intro flows gently into a harder rocking tempo that is carried by the lady's strong vocal. Will be sung in many markets in the weeks to come, no doubt. Flip: no info. available.