# Record Review Ratings

By Carl Matthews

## DAZZ BAND

Jukebox Motown 6117ML

Let It All Blow, Keep You Comin' Back For More, She's The One, Heartbeat, Dream Girl, Undercover Lover, I've Been Waiting, Main Attraction, So Much Love

Rating - \* \* 1/2

It's Dazz Band time again. On their sixth Motown album, the group led by saxophonist Bobby Harris serves up another platter of electric funk rhythms and other stuff. The single "Let It All Blow" finds them as funky as ever, with percussion and synthesizers going at full force. This jam is somewhat more discosounding than some of their previous hits. The band is more rock-oriented on this album — notice the opening guitar riffs of "Keep You Comin' Back For More" and "Dream Girl."

## NEW EDITION

New Edition MCA MCA-5515

Cool It Now, Mr. Telephone Man, I'm Leaving You Again, Baby Love, Delicious, My Secret (Didja Git It Yet?), Hide And Seek, Lost In Love, Kinda Girls We Like, Maryann

Rating - \* \*

The New Edition's first album, as you probably know, was a collection of hook-filled tunes, in which pop songs in the Motown mold were garnished with hip-hop instrumentations. Their new effort is somewhat less exciting. Their first single from the new album, "Cool It Now," is probably going to need massive airplay to score a hit — this one doesn't show off the boys' talents as well as some of their past stuff, although it's a poppin' and rockin' tune in the spirit of "Candy Girl." "Kinda Girls We Like" is one of the most interesting tunes on the new album. Basically, it picks up where the rap portion of "Candy Girl" left off. It's an electric showcase of rapping and instrumental breaks, and serves to brighten up an otherwise ordinary side 2 (didn't know they could write songs, did you?). "Mr. Telephone Man" was written and produced by Ray Parker, Jr., who appears on bass, guitar, drums and synthesizer, so it is no wonder that it sounds like a New Edition cover of "A Woman Needs Love." Can't fault the boys for working with a proven hit-maker.

#### CULTURE CLUB

Excelent \* \* \* \* \* tory Good \* \* \* Good \* \* \* \* Fill \* \*

Waking Up With The House On Fire
Virgin OE 39881
Dangerous Man, The War Song, Unfortunate
Thing: Crime Time Mistake No. 2. The Dive

Dangerous Man, The War Song, Unfortunate Thing, Crime Time, Mistake No. 3, The Dive, The Medal Song, Don't Talk About It, Mannequin, Hello Goodbye

Rating - \* \* \* 1/2

Now that the international pop phenomenon known as Culture Club has struck gold with their first two albums, "Kissing To Be Clever" and "Colour By Numbers," we needn't be surprised if Boy George's millions of fans continue to keep the Club high on the charts. After all, Jon Moss, Mikey Craig, Roy Hay and George O'Dowd dish up another interesting mix of Caribbean-flavored R&B ("The Medal Song"), funked-up rock ("Hello Goodbye") and commercial pop ("The War Song"). "The War Song" is something of a letdown — I mean, check this lyric: "War war is stupid...." An odd choice of adjectives, I must say. But then, never expect these guys to stick with the ordinary.

### GROVER WASHINGTON

Inside Moves Elektra 60318-1

Inside Moves, Dawn Song, Watching You Watching Me, Secret Sounds, Jet Stream, When I Look At You, Sassy Stew

Rating - \* \* 1/2

Now let's have something for those who like saxophone players. Satisfaction will be found in the latest Elektra album by Grover Washington, Jr., "Inside Moves." From his sixteenth album, cool, clear and mellow tones can be heard flowing from Grover's horn once again. The album starts off with the percolating rhythms of Ralph McDonald's percussion on the title cut, decorated with a few licks by Eric Gale on guitar. Relaxed and laid-back is "Watching You Watching Me" with featured vocalist Jon Lucien, and "Sassy Stew" is a simple, mellow tune in which Marcus Miller keeps a steady rhythm going on bass. If you're a Grover Washington, Jr. fan, you're in for another pleasant, relaxing set of R&B, jazz, fusion and pop.

#### GLENN JONES

Finesse

RCA NFL1-8036

Finesse, You're The Only One I Love, Show Me, It Hurts Too Much, Meet Me Half Way There, Bring Back Your Love, Everlasting Love, On The Floor

Rating - \* \* \*

The powerful baritone/tenor voice of Glenn Jones is featured on his second RCA album, "Finesse." Mr. Jones had a hit last year with the tune, "I Am Somebody," which featured excerpts from speeches by Jesse Jackson. The professional, ear-catching arrangements on his new LP, coupled with his warm and soulful vocal style, should bring him a whole bunch of new fans. The uptempo "You're The Only One I Love" is a pleasant mix of strong lead vocals, harmony background vocals and synthesizer-keyboards. "Show Me" has all the elements of a smash R&B ballad, and "Meet Me Half Way There" has a very nice vocal arrangement. His voice outstanding throughout, Glenn Jones's new album is a fine showcase of a skilled music maker.

## WHODINI

Escape

Jive JL 6-8251

Five Minutes Of Funk, Freaks Come Out At Night, Featuring Grandmaster Dee, Big Mouth, Escape (I Need A Break), Friends, Out Of Control, We Are Whodini

Rating — \* \* \* 1/2

If you know anything at all about Harry Houdini, the famed magician, it should be very easy for you to see why the title of the latest album by Whodini is appropriate. "Escape" continues in the tradition of their debut album of a year ago, titled "Whodini." The two songs from this album that are featured on the latest 12-inch single (also available on 7-inch), "Friends" and "Five Minutes Of Funk" (listed on the label as being 5:20 in length) have earned considerable airplay. The cut titled "Featuring Grandmaster Dee" features the instrumental track from "Five Minutes Of Funk." On "Big Mouth" Jalil Huthins and John "Ecstasy" Fletcher give us an interesting rap that features no music, just rhythm ala Run-D.M.C. The title track is better-structured melody-wise, and rocks as hard as the rest of the stuff here.

