#### VESTA WILLIAMS "Vesta" (A&M)

There are three artists named Williams on this week's black album charts. Beau Williams' "No More Tears" has been on the charts for about a month and a half, James (D-Train) Williams' "Miracles Of The Heart" has been around for a couple of months, and the debut album by Vesta Williams is currently moving up the charts.

Vesta Williams is a 25-year-old more mature voice than Janet. the track is deserving of its top-20 singer from Coshocton, Ohio. Her latest album, which includes her struments on "My Heart Is Other cuts: "Sweet Thang," top-20 hit single "Once Bitten Yours," which Vesta belts out in "Don't Blow A Good Thing," "Get Twice Shy," was produced most-typical Chaka Khan style. I say it ly by Bryan Loren, who is also an would have been a better love A&M artist, and Billy Valentine of song if the instrumentation had the Valentine Brothers. Patrice been performed by a group of a Rushen and percussionist Jeff few musicians playing non-Lorber play on her current single. synthesized instruments. "Once

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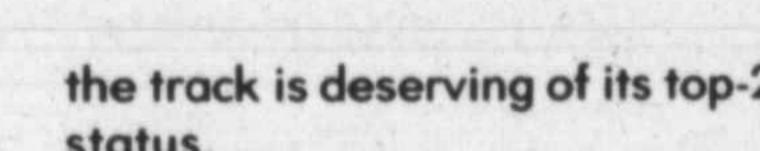
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sounds like a track from Janet Jackson's "Control" sessions. But Vesta appears to have a fuller,

Bryan Loren plays all the in- status. The album gets off to a rock- Bitten Twice Shy," which Vesta ing start with "Something About wrote with Dean Gant, fortunate-You," which percussion-wise ly strays away from the predictable formula music of side one, and with friends such as Lorber and Rushen in the right places,



SOUNDS

Out Of My Life," "It's You."

## "Zagora" (MCA)

The group that brought us the number one chart single "Hanging On A String" returns with their latest album, "Zagora."

Loose Ends consists of Carl McIntosh on vocals, guitars and bass, Steve Nichol on keyboards and drums, and Jane Eugene on

On this LP Loose Ends brings us more of that smooth synth athmosphere and mellow vocals. The album features the 8:11 remix of "Stay A Little While, Child," and the current single "Slow Down," both of which sound like "Hanging On A

surprises to the record buyer (and how many different songs named "I Can't Wait" are out now? I've already heard at least half a dozen!). This album can be recommended to those who insist on high-quality production and

#### "WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC "Polka Party!" (Rock And Roll)

The latest hit single by rap artist Run-D.M.C. is a song titled "You Be Illin'." Do you suppose Run-D.M.C. could have been talking about the guy who made this album? After all, anybody who would record songs like the ones on this album has got to be a little strange.

Leave us face it. A "Weird Al" Yankovic album is the Mad Magazine of the rock and roll world. A Yankovic album typical ly contains three or four oddball parodies of rock and roll classics, in which Yankovic sings

This fellow took Queen's "Another One Bites The Dust" Yankovic makes even crazier

videos). Last time out he changed Madonna's "Like A Virgin" into "Like A Surgeon" and even did a version of the theme song from "George Of The Jungle," an old

Vesta Jay Ward cartoon. Is this guy nuts

Check out how he sends up James Brown's "Living America" and brings us "Living With A Hernia." Remember Robert Palmer's "Addicted To Love"? Al's version is called "Addicted To Spuds."

And Yankovic doesn't stop and made a newer version called there. A Yankovic album also "Another One Rides The Bus." He typically includes a medley of did a parody of Michael Jackson's rock and roll hits, done polka "Beat It" and called it "Eat It" (and style. That's right, I said polka. He's an accordion player, you see. Imagine hearing polka versions of such classics as "Say You, Say Me," "Nasty," "Owner Of A

time to put it on his next album. You'll either think this guy is

the cleverest accordion player you ever heard, or he's nothing but a no-talent copycat. As far as I'm concerned he's the cleverest accordion-playing copycat that was ever nominated for a Grammy. (That's mainly because he's the only accordion-playing copycat that was ever nominated

### Music Notes

Are you a Force M.D.'s fan? Tommy Boy Records is repackaging and re-releasing their Lonely Heart," "The Reflex," or first album, "Love Letters," in "Hey Jude." Hey, maybe if I get time for the holidays. It includes my request in now, he'll have "Let Me Love You" and "Tears."

V-103's Top Twenty

Run DMC

Anita Baker

One Way

RFTW

Lionel Richie

Commodores

Isaac Hayes

Full Force

Chico Debarge

Aretha Franklin

Vesta Williams

**Kurtis Blow** 

D-Train

Klymaxx

Grace Jones

**Kool And The Gang** 

1. Tasty Love 2. You'll Be Illin'

3. Crazay

4. Rapture 5. Control

6. Stop To Love 7. Don't Think About It 8. Love Will Conquer All

9. Going To The Bank

10. Love You Down 11. Ike's Rap/Hey Girl 12. Victory

13. Talk To Me 14. Unfaithful 15. Jimmy Lee 16. Once Bitten Twice Shy

17. I'm Chillin' 18. I'm Not Perfect

19. Misunderstanding

20. Sexy

'Tis always a pleasure to welcome home one of our own, and to alll intends and purposes, it is happening now. Freddie Jackson Happened to be driving past the Jazz Closet the other day, Jesse Johnson and lo and behold, the Gary Bartz Trio is listed as being the Janet Jackson weekend talent at the club. Luther Vandross

This is indeed good news, but unfortunately, have been unable to get too many details. Now I behold, on the stand was Marvin know why. Did discover that Cabell. Geoff Harper will be on bass, and Steve Williams, drums.

the pianist is not answered

Bob Butta, who normally and Mickey really blended well, old Blue Moon Cafe back into plays with the group is off on the acoustic plus the electronic. operation, wouldn't it be great? another European swing. This On top of this, Arnold Sterltime, in Paris and the surround- ing showed up, playing soprano ing area, where he is expected sax, as is his wont these days, so Down has a star lineup for to be for about two months.

Dropped into the Sportsman's night session, headed up by take a complete set off while the group. Mickey Fields, and lo and visitors really wailed away.

AND ALL THAT JAZZ

with synthesizer and all the rest Baltimore to stay. of the trappings. Must say that he Now, if we could just get the

Chatted with Marvin, who said he is in this area working on a He has dropped playing the new recording, which is in protenor sax for a bit, and has cess now, and in about a month But the question of who will be adopted the Lyricon, complete or so, he will be moving back to

Over in D.C., the One Step you can bet it was a really great tonight and Saturday. Johnny Griffin, one of Baltimore's So many musicians showed up favorite tenor men, is the artist Lounge for the regular Monday that the regulars were able to in residence, along with his own

He will have Harry Pickens,

on piano; Curtis Lundy, bass, and Kenny Washington, drums. of them. All are familiar names to Bank Jazz Society many times. \* \* \*

Over at Ethel's Place, the Tim Eyermann and the East Coast Offering will be in place through Saturday night.

The group played the club couple of weeks ago, when they backed up Ethel on a recording date. Eyermann and Co. are a fundamentally fusion group, and are usually based out of D.C.

**Next Tuesday and Wednesday** Baltimore's Moon August will be the featured artist. It will be interesting to compare the type of music played by both fusion \* \* \*

Was a bit worried that maybe Ruby Glover and Charlie Cov- even give us a call. ington didn't make the ap- Or, if you are in contact with pearance at the Baltimore Ruby — let her know your Museum of Art last Sunday, since choices.

the daily press made no mention

Was assured, however, that in-Baltimoreans, having played the deed they did appear, and old Famous Ballroom for the Left received great audience response. But, since they were not doing "new" music - their efforts were overlooked.

> \* \* \* Did get a chance to chat with Ruby about a pet project we have been discussing, and that is to try to put together a "dream" band of area musicians.

Some of the suggested names we have come up with include: Donald Bailey and Gary Grainger, bass; Charlie Covington, Bob Butts, piana; Gary

Bartz, Mickey Fields, Marvin Cabell, Arnold Sterling, reeds. And that's just a beginning What we would hope for is to get you involved. Let us know who you think should be in this dream band. Drop me a note here — or



Maxine Sullivan

## Maxine Sullivan's sharing new audience

Sullivan, Cotton Club veteran singing careers.

At 75, this diminutive, pewterdiences with her smooth-as-silk diction and timing, not a gymnastic range; have always been the prime vocal ingredients.

"For a long time, I was favoring the Johnny Mercer reper toire. Most of my material is '30s and '40s anyway," Sullivan says. "It was good music. We've got a

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Proof positive of this is Maxine I see a lot of young people.

"I like lyrics and I like good was the flip side to the hit "Gone Creepers" and "Darn That whose swinging 1938 version of chord progressions. Lyrics that With the Wind." "Loch Lomond" became a pop hit make sense, music that people that gilded the first of her two can understand. I never went in for modern or a whole lot of career in 1934 as Marietta way's "Swingin' the Dream," of tricks. If I go in and catch these Williams, singing in a Pittsburgh 1939 musical version of "A Midhaired lady is charming new au- things, there is no way you can after-hours joint called the Benkeep me off the bandstand."

Sullivan has not had to alter her style because of changing times or a loss of any vocal technique. She has a gentle sense of swing that was absorbed during years in front of top

"Maxine is one of the only singers I know who is just a band singer. Her creative judgment is very good," says tenor saxophonist Scott Hamilton, whose quintet collaborated with Sullivan last year on the excellent album "Uptown" for Concord Jazz.

Her chestnuts include Thought About You," "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams," "You're a Lucky Guy," "Between The devil and the Deep Blue Sea" and "I've Got The World on a String."

Sullivan's regular label, Stash, nail care — manicures, pedicures, sculptures, tips, including is now featuring her on a series of albums devoted to specific

"The Great Songs from the Cotton Club written by Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler," a 1985 Grammy nominee, was followed this year by a Burton Lane album. Another spotlighting the songs of lyricist Jule Styne - including " "It's Been a Long, Long Without You Baby" is in the

The good songs, and the peo- couple of generations that never You're Breaking My Heart," a It brought Sullivan instant fame. ple who sing them, never got out heard that music. Now they're song that Sullivan recorded in her Other songs Sullivan introducdiscovering it. When I look out, very first studio session in 1937 ed to the airwaves and home with Claude Thornhill's band. It

> Sullivan, born May 13, 1911 in Homestead, Pa., began her film "Going Places." and Broadjamin Harrison Literary Club. Gladys Mosier, a member of Ina Ray Hutton's band, urged Sullivan to move to New York and introduced her to Thornhill.

Two months after that first 20 years. recording session, her own studio date included a swinging Thornhill arrangement of the Scottish folk tune "Loch Lomond."

phonographs included "Heeper's Dream." Soon came appearances with Louis Armstrong in the 1938

summer Night's Dream." "I became identified with "Loch Lomond." In the early days, at clubs and in vaudeville, I was billed as 'the Loch Lomond Lady." did that song four times a day for

"Even now, I'm asked to sing it. I retired in 1957 because I was

Continued on page 7

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