Record Review Ratings

By Carl Matthews

Excellent ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Very Good ★ ★ ★ ★ Good ★ ★ ★ Fair ★ ★ Poor ★

SHIRLEY MURDOCK

Shirley Murdock!
Elektra 60443-1
Be Free, No More, Go On Without You, Truth Or Dare, Danger Zone, Teaser, As We Lay, The One I Need, Tribute

Rating — ★ ★ ★ ★

This lady seems genuinely excited, singing these professionally-produced, electro-funk numbers on her debut album. Roger Troutman, of Zapp, produced this LP. The Troutmans (Roger, Zapp, and Larry) play various instruments on the album. Sounds like she's learned something from Gladys Knight and Aretha Franklin. On the opening cut "Be Free" she comes out with a nice strong voice, while the Troutman crew provide all of the slickly-produced instrumental hooks, technical trickery and Zapp-ish back beat you could want in your R&B chart rocker. And if you're gonna party, you may as well jam to "No More," her top-30 single, and listen to a voice with real strength in the high registers (if you're the kind of person that really **listens** to singers). Cuts like "Truth Or Dare" and "Danger Zone" seem to depend more on the Troutman production and keyboard abilities than they should. "Go On Without You" and "As We Lay" are better than average ballad performances, however. (Glad she's not trying to imitate Whitney Houston).

JUNIOR

Acquired Taste
Mercury 828 001-1 M-1
Somebody, Not Tonight, Oh Louise, Thing Called Love, Do You Really Want My Love, Look What You've Done To Me, Together, Come On Over

Rating ★ ★ ★

Junior's latest album begins with "Somebody," a raucous rocker that's also available on 12-inch, and is definitely typical of the kind of noise you'd expect from this man. A more commercial R&B sound dominates "Not Tonight," as well as Junior's single, "Oh, Louise." This track, with the gospel choir and all, was produced by Junior himself. Junior's latest album proves once again that there's no such thing as a "typical" Junior record — For example, you may hear "Oh Louise" on the radio a lot, and then when you get the album, wonder why that's the only track on the album that sounds like that. Well, you wouldn't want him to just turn out imitations of "Mama Used To Say," would you? I thought not.

MELI'SA MORGAN

Do Me Baby
Capitol ST-12434
Fool's Paradise, Heart Breaking Decision, Do You Still Love Me?, I'll Give It When I Want It, Do Me Baby, Getting To Know You Better, Now Or Never, Lies

Rating — ★ ★ ½

The funky "Fool's Paradise" opens side one, and while this is not the same as the song Rufus And Chaka Khan recorded about 10 years ago, this is certainly performed in a Rufus-like style. "Heart Breaking Decision," "Do You Still Love Me?" and "I'll Give It When I Want It," while unremarkable composition-wise, make side one pleasant listening. Side two contains 5:17 of the big single, "Do Me Baby." Your average R&B/pop album, of course.

FALCO

Falco 3
A&M SP 5105
Rock Me Amadeus, America, Tango The Night, Munich Girls (Looking For Love), Jeanny, Vienna Calling, Manner Des Westens—Any Kind Of Land, Nothin' Sweeter Than Arabia, Macho Macho, It's All Over Now Baby Blue

Rating — ★ ★ ★ ★

Ever hear of Falco? If not, here's a little background. The 19-year-old artist was born Johann Holzel in Vienna. In 1981, he had a hit with the original version of "Der Kommissar," one of the more interesting rap songs by a white artist at the time. That song appeared on Falco's first album, "Einzelhaft." Falco's second LP was "Jung Roemer" (1984). Much of his latest album was recorded in Holland. So if you're into hip, foreign dance-rock with a sense of humor, you might get into Falco today. After all, "1756, Salzburg, January 27th, Wolfgang Amadeus was born; 1761, at the age of five, Amadeus begins composing..." is not the way most rock and roll songs begin, but never let it be said that Mozart has never been mentioned in a top-40 record. "America" is another lively number which sounds sort of like a Springsteen track done in German, and "Vienna Calling" is more of that upbeat rap you may already know from "Der Kommissar." There are more interesting musical hooks in such tracks as "Nothin' Sweeter Than Arabia" and "Macho Macho," each with its own instrumental personality, and Falco tackles a Dylan number with "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue." So, if you're into other artists who are big outside of the U.S.A. (Culture Club for example), check out a little Falco music and perhaps, you may learn something. You might learn how to rap in German. You might learn how to treat girls in Munich. You might even learn what year Mozart became a freemason! Isn't it wonderful?

THE TETREC CHOIR

Everybody Don't Know Who Jesus Is
Tyscot TR85815
Praise The Lord!, I Just Want To Worship You, I'm Coming Out, Glory Hallelujah!, Praise, Everybody Don't Know Who Jesus Is, Jesus Lover Of My Soul, I Want To Know Him, Keep Looking Up

Rating — ★ ★ ★

Here's an album featuring the uplifting voices of nearly 40 young people from Columbus, Ohio. They're known as The End Time Revival Evangelistic Crusade Choir. Although only adequate production-wise, there are quite a few musical bright spots, such as the lead vocal on "Glory, Hallelujah!" and the energetic, well-rehearsed harmonies on "Praise The Lord!"

THE DRAMATICS

Somewhere In Time (A Dramatic Reunion)
Fantasy F-9642
Dream Lady, Razor Blade, One Love Ago, Show Me What You Got, When Love Is Over, Somewhere In Time/In The Rain/Fell For You/Hey You, Get Off My Mountain/Girl, Stop Your Weeping/Be My Girl, Days Of Yea And Ney, Luv's Callin', She's Wild

Rating — ★ ★ ★ ½

Well, it's been almost five years, but L. J. Reynolds, Lenny Mayes, William "Weegee" Howard, Willie Ford and yes, Ron Banks have returned with a new Dramatics album. The highlight of the album is the medley consisting of the album's title song, along with five Dramatics classics, which should be a fan-pleaser. Also included is the pop/R&B "Luv's Callin'," the first single.

Swimsuits 1986

By June Chaplin

The search goes on for new ways of exposing—or not quite exposing—the body.

The maillot, with its body-contouring effect, continues to be todays most popular suit. The ones shown here are typical of those we'll see this season.

They're still rather high on the thigh or low in front or back, but not so radical as in the past. They're in good colors—bright blues or yellows, for example. Like most suits, they come with matching cover-ups.

Metallics are also hot this year—especially silver.

Bikinis will always be around, and some of the current crop are pretty minimal. One brand new take in bikinis has a top that is like a brief cut-off tank top worn with a very brief bottom.

Don't be shy about checking out suits that are more revealing than you've been thinking you could wear; you might be surprised at how much you can get away with.

The way the suit is cut—or cut away—might do wonders for parts of you that you never thought were greatlooking. Let your mirror be your guide.





(Above right)
Rhonda wears blue bikini with fish print.

(Above left)
Simple maillots in bright yellow, left, and blue, right, are by Ann Cole. Bright yellow cover-up buttons up the back as well as front.

All swim suits from Stuff and Stuff in Kenilworth Bazaar in Towson, Maryland. Models are Kith by Central Casting and Rhonda McDonald by Barbizon. Make up by Iris Daly.



Kith wears green and white striped one-piece suit by Gottex.



Two-piece suit by Ann Cole is black with red and yellow stripes.