

**SHAVED FISH**

**JOHN LENNON**—Apple SW-3421 (6.98)

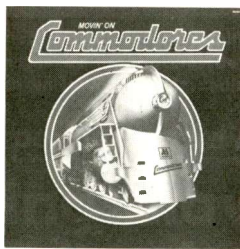
"Imagine" and "Mind Games" lead the list of Lennon's solo accomplishments in this eleven song package tracing the Lennon/Ono career from 1972 to the present. Produced alternately by John and Yoko and Phil Spector, sound is the key to all that Lennon has done. Others: "Woman Is the Nigger of the World" and "Mother."



**MOVIN' ON**

**COMMODORES**—Motown M6-84851 (6.98)

Travelling full speed ahead as the engine on the front cover indicates, the Commodores have no trouble with energy or musical pressure cooking. "Hold On" and "Gimme My Mule" will keep 'em dancing all night long. "Sweet Love" is a gentle ballad complemented nicely by the slightly less (rhythmically) subtle "Time."



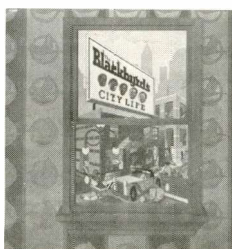
**HISTORY OF BRITISH ROCK, VOL. III**

**Various Artists**—Sire SASH 3712-2 (ABC) (7.98)  
The Beatles, the Kinks, David Bowie, Elton John, Cream, the Dave Clark Five . . . more than two dozen of the mid-'60s British groups who proved to the world that they, too, knew what rock 'n' roll is all about. Some previously unreleased takes and some of the most popular are combined in a two-record piece-de-resistance.



**CITY LIFE**

**THE BLACKBYRDS**—Fantasy F-9490 (6.98)  
Striving for a matured "Do It Fluid" hit sound, Donald Byrd's proteges mix soulful funk with technical expertise. Byrd (who produces the group) provides one of the more disco-based compositions, "Happy Music." And drummer Keith Killgo propels the Blackbyrds to new heights with the air-bound "Flying High."



**YELLOW FEVER**

**HOT TUNA**—Grunt BFL1-1238 (RCA) (6.98)

Jorma Kaukonen, Jack Casady and Bob Steeler are on top of some rip-roaring licks ala the stomp-and-sweat school of rock and roll. "Baby What You Want Me To Do" and "Half/Time Situation" are hard rockers through and through; "Hot Jelly Roll Blues" in a far mellow vein. As always, good FM playpiece.



**SAFETY ZONE**

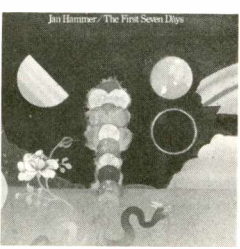
**BOBBY WOMACK**—UA LA544-G (6.98)  
"Everything's Gonna Be Alright" gets Womack off to a disco start with an emphasis on synthetic sounds superimposed over strong rhythm bases. Herbie Hancock guest solos on "I Feel A Groove Comin' On" with "Trust In Me" and "Where There's A Will, There's A Way" coming off well in a straight r&b mix.



**THE FIRST SEVEN DAYS**

**JAN HAMMER**—Nemperor NE 432 (Atlantic) (6.98)

A self-contained recordist—Hammer does all but some violin and percussion tracks—"The First Seven Days" is an interesting montage of keyboard and synthesizer impressions of the story of creation. "Fourth Day—Plants and Trees" is particularly accessible, the extended "Sixth Day—The People" a cross-view of the entire work.



**RICH MAN'S WOMAN**

**ELKIE BROOKS**—A&M SP 4554 (6.98)  
Former Vinegar Joe lead singer goes it solo in a set produced by Kenny Kerner and Richie Wise. "Roll Me Over," a bluesy rocker, leaves Ms. Brooks' voice in a relatively natural state; "He's A Rebel," the Gene Pitney song done by the Crystals, gets a Phil Spector-like production with full echoes and updated synthesizers.



**BLOSSOM DEARIE 1975, VOL. II**

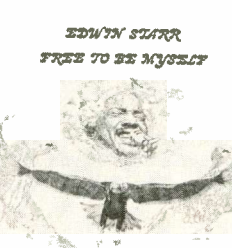
**Daffodil BMD 102 (4.98)**

Her late-afternoon concert series at Reno Sweeney in New York proved just who the real believers are. A living example that sensitivity in lyric coloring is still an honorable art, this is an album for closed eyes, a fireplace and some hot grog. Perfect for the uninitiated or the familiar from her big band days.



**FREE TO BE MYSELF**

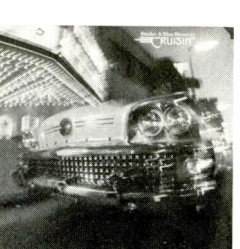
**EDWIN STARR**—Granite GS-1005 (6.98)  
Starr's last major chart success was the single "War" in the summer of 1970, and though there were recordings subsequent to that hit, this is his statement for 1975. "Best of My Past" brings us up-to-date while "Pain," "Toys" and "Rainbow" blend meaningful lyrics with danceable rhythms. A significant return effort.



**CRUISIN'**

**DUKE & THE DRIVERS**—ABC ABCD-911 (6.98)

Boston breeds another hard-rocking band, this one very much in tune with traditionally-styled rock and roll melodies. "Rock 'N' Roll High," "Dr. Rock and Roll," "Lovebones" and "Too Much Woman for a Henpecked Man" show Duke & the Drivers to be steering in the right direction. Hitch along!



**I'M THE FIDDLE MAN**

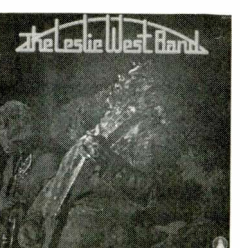
**PAPA JOHN CREACH**—Buddah BDS 5649 (6.98)  
Extensive recording and touring with the Jefferson Starship has earned Papa John a following all his own. Leading his own band now, the Midnight Sun, Papa John's fiddle has a distinctive edge that cuts through such standards as "Stardust" with breathtaking ease. "Fiddlin' Around" and "The Rocker" also highlight.



**THE LESLIE WEST BAND**

**Phantom BPL1-1258 (RCA) (6.98)**

Moving heavy metal mountains is what Leslie West and friends have been doing for years. With Corky Laing and Mick Jones still by his side, Leslie's blasting the way for new fourlane highways with every cut. "Dear Prudence" and "We Gotta Get Out of This Place" are delivered with a power their authors never suspected.



**YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE IF YOU CAN'T DANCE**

**JIMMY JAMES AND THE VAGABONDS**—Pye 12111 (ATV) (6.98)  
The title cut and "I Am Somebody" are garnering some disco and radio play in selected markets around the country. A group that's been around for years, entry into a new field should help revive interest in James and the Vagabonds' talents. Dance to the music!

