

# STROBE

by Tim Walter

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## Motown Recipes: New Batch Of Old Gold?

Although consistently visible since leaving the Temptations in 1969, which was about a year after "I Wish It Would Rain," baritone David Ruffin's career hasn't been what it should.

Ruffin elected to solo with Motown, succeeding almost instantly with "My Whole World Ended (The Moment You Left Me)," but his stunning talent hasn't fazed us since. When none of the Motown producers came to his aid, he joined Warner Brothers.

In December, Motown signed Ruffin back into the fold, along with soulmate Eddie Kendricks. The industry is now floating with all kinds of rumors about Motown's plans.

Kendricks did slightly better in his solo career; the tenor left the Temps in 1971 right after "Just My Imagination" and stayed with Motown until 1977. An Arista disc, "Vintage '78" was probably his best work of the latter part of the seventies, and it was only average. Finally he moved on to Atlantic.

Now that both are back with Motown, do the Motown executives have any hot plans to give the durable, although perhaps now "overly slick" Temptations a remixed old-fashioned shot in the arm? Time will tell what the brass doesn't.

The Temptations are now on tour, recording in February for a March release. Question: who will be in that studio with them?

Look for "Dreamgirls" to run...and run, and run. The new starmaker will undoubtedly tour as well, providing a vehicle for all kinds of talent.

If you haven't heard, a story that resembles the history of the sensational rise to success of the Supremes has been cast in a Broadway musical by director/choreographer Michael "A Chorus Line" Bennett. It opened December 20.

It's not reality; in this version Effie (not unlike Florence Ballard) is dramatically forced out of the group, but unlike the tragedy of Ballard, Effie is reinstated in the end. The moral of forgiveness is almost lost in the sheer magnitude of the show's musical and visual brilliance.

The other critics are raving about Jennifer Holliday (age 21) who plays Effie. I was equally impressed with illusionist Sheryl Lee Ralph as the sleek and chic Deena (a Ross type). "Dreamgirls" could well give both a launch toward careers on vinyl and in concert; it worked for Stephanie Mills after four years with "The Wiz!"

Cleavant Derricks did a brilliant job of creating vocal arrangements that sound like the Supreme/Motown cliches of the 60's without neglecting to add a smart 80's touch that is destined to make the cast album succeed on its own merits. Derricks also has a role, a James Brown-type who loses to the manipulations of Curtis, the hustler (Ben Harney).

I like the Whispers 13th album, "Love Is Where You Find It." Leavell Degree suggested stacking the dance songs on one side with the "romancin'" tunes on the flip side. "People don't like to be interrupted at either," he told me. "They want one or the other, without the mood changing. So, we came up with a side each."

"In The Raw" is the fast-breaking single and lead cut from the dancin' side, somewhat typical funk. In my book, the romancin' side carries the greater appeal. Bet on a slower, but steady climb with "Say Yes" and possibly "Small Talking."

The Whispers didn't really score until 1980, when "And The Beat Goes On" became their first gold single. They'd been working together for 15 years prior. With the economy forcing consumers into choosing solid values, little wonder they're succeeding now when schlock is falling like dead flies in Raid. By the way, MCA joined RCA and Warner's in pricing 45's at \$1.99. At that price, who's buying?

## Guests On Dick Cavett Show

Guests appearing on *The Dick Cavett Show* during the week of January 25, are Saul Bellow, author, Part I, on Monday January 25. Nobel laureate Saul Bellow's highly praised books include "The Adventures of Augie March" (National Book Award, 1953), "Herzog" (International Literature Prize, 1963), "Mr. Sammler's Planet" (National Book Award, 1970), "Humboldt's Gift" (Pulitzer Prize, 1976), and "To Jerusalem and Back." Bellow won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1976. His latest novel is "The Dean's December."

Parts II and III of the interview with Bellow will be aired Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Thursday, January 28, Grace Bumbry and Shirley Verrett, opera singers, will

appear. Miss Bumbry and Miss Verrett, opera stars of international renown, are appearing together for the first time in a joint concert at Carnegie on Sunday, January 31. Their Cavett show appearance marks the only time prior to the concert when the two will perform together — "The Letter Duet" from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." Both Miss Bumbry and Miss Verrett were originally mezzo-sopranos who, later in their careers, successfully switched to dramatic soprano roles. Each began her career as a choir singer, each appeared on "Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts," and each has won the Marian Anderson Award.

On Friday January 29, Arthur Mitchell, founder and co-director of the Dance

Theatre of Harlem. Mitchell founded the acclaimed Dance Theatre of Harlem company twelve years ago. Prior to that time, he was a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet for fifteen years. In June, 1981, Mitchell received an appointment to serve on the President's Task Force on the Arts and Humanities. At the time of the broadcast, the Dance Theatre of Harlem will be performing a five week season at City Center in New York, moving to the Kennedy Center Opera House in Washington, D.C. immediately thereafter. The company's appearance at the Kennedy Center will be videotaped and broadcast on Wednesday, May 5 on the Kennedy Center Tonight series over PBS.

## Monday-Friday Daytime

January 25 - 29, 1982

	WFMY CH. 2 Cable 2	WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3	WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6	WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9	WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10	WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12	WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13	WGHP CH. 8
7:00	Good Morning	Today	Captain Kangaroo Morning	AMWeather	New Zoo Review Great Space Coaster	Good Morning America	Fun Time	Good Morning America
7:15								
7:30								
7:45								
8:00	Captain Kangaroo Morning			Over Easy	Porky Pig		I Dream Of Jeannie	
8:15				Varied Programs	Bugs & Popeye		My Three Sons	
8:30								
8:45								
9:00		Richard Simmons Leave It To Woman	Donahue	Sesame Street	I Love Lucy Chico &	Hour Magazine	Movie:	Richard Simmons Charlie Rose
9:15								
9:30								
9:45								
10:00	Alice	Regis Philbin Blockbuster	One Day At A Time Alice	Varied Programs	Rhoda	Uncle Paul		John Davidson
10:15								
10:30	One Day At A Time				Super Ray Cards	Edge of Night		
10:45								
11:00	Price Is Right	Wheel Of Fortune Battlestars	Price Is Right		Medical Center	Three's Company	Movie:	Three's Company
11:15								
11:30								
11:45								
12:00	Mary Tyler Moore	Password Plus	News		Panorama	News		Family Feud
12:15								
12:30	Young & The Restless	The Doctors	Young & The Restless			Ryan's Hope		Ryan's Hope
12:45								
1:00		Days of Our Lives		Readalong	Movie:	All My Children	Movie:	All My Children
1:15				Varied Programs				
1:30	As The World Turns		As The World Turns	Readalong				
1:45								
2:00		Another World		Electric Company		One Life To Live		One Life To Live
2:15								
2:30	Search For Tomorrow		Search For Tomorrow					
2:45								
3:00	Guiding Light	ScoobyDoo	Guiding Light	Sesame Street	Tom & Jerry	General Hospital	Fun Time	General Hospital
3:15		Woody Woodpecker			Superman		Flintstones	
3:30								
3:45								
4:00	Jeffersons	Laverne & Shirley	Incredible Hulk	Sesame Street	Incredible Hulk	Good Times	Munsters	Good Times
4:15								
4:30	Gomer Pyle	Star Trek				Happy Days Again	Leave It To Beaver	Carter Country
4:45								
5:00	Jeffersons		Carter Country	Mister Rogers	I Love Lucy	Good Times	Brady Bunch	M.A.S.H.
5:15			Jeffersons	3-2-1 Contact	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Beverly Hills	M.A.S.H.
5:30	Andy Griffith	News						
5:45								
6:00	News	Muppet Show	News	Dr. Who	Carol Burnett	News	Andy Griffith	News
6:15								
6:30	CBS News	NBC News	CBS News	Wildlife Adventure	Happy Days Again	ABC News	Gomer Pyle	ABC News
6:45								

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Don't store onions and potatoes together; the onions can sprout or rot in the moisture potatoes give off.