STROBE

by Tim Walter

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Womack Ponders Offer From The Majors

Been listening to the hits lately? **Bobby Womack** is back, uncompromising, doing his own thing to counter industry trends and gimmicks. His album "The Poet" has crossed over to Pop charts and now five or six major labels want to sign him up again.

Womack, a protege of the late **Sam Cooke**, has been around for over twenty years, but after twelve years of success with self-production at United Artists, the label tried to stifle him with producer **David Rubinson.**

"Rubinson was talented enough, but just didn't know what to do with me," Womack told me. "Here I sit with a catalog of 600 or so of my own songs, having written for **Janis Joplin**, the **Rolling Stones, Sly Stone** and others, and he wanted me to crank out covers of **Stevie Wonder** hits. Hell, I was writing and performing before Stevie was born. Not to take anything from him, but I've got my own thing to do." A disgruntled Womack signed with Columbia "for three times the money and it was the biggest mistake I ever made." His career and records quickly bit the dust so Womack married and disappeared for five years.

"You've got to be yourself," he explains, "you can't just slant for a market simply because the labels tell you they want another hit. I don't write for the black market, nor for white, green, blue, purple or anything else. I write for Bobby Womack. The songs I write are to educate; they're about real life. I write for me and to me, they're all hits. I'm the only guy I've got to satisfy.

"But I'm happy to be on the road again. It doesn't matter that we're sometimes an opening act. We did three of the Stones dates in California and **Mick (Jagger)** said they didn't care about our drawing power. 'We didn't bring you for that', he told me. 'We got you for our own inspiration; we come to the show early just to hear you, so play to us.' The Stones are great, they don't record for hits, they sit down to have fun. They're real; the audience understands that."

"The Poet" is on the Beverly Glenn label, a company little more than a record pressing and shipping factory. Womack is currently fighting a $5 million lawsuit wrangle over ownership of masters with that company. Nonetheless, he's touring in support of the album, working the East Coast through March before moving West. The Rolling Stones have booked him for a South American tour and he's debating following that with concerts in France. If he succeeds in extricating the BG masters, he'll have a second album virtually finished and he confides he plans to cut a gospel album with the Womack Brothers yet this year.

The success of "The Poet" was a surprise, even for Womack. "We didn't have anything like typical promotion for it," he explains. "The album was shipped to a few DJ's and they listened to it, mainly out of curiosity. They wanted to see what it was like, after all these years. Finally a Chicago radio station picked it up and ran with it."

* * * * *

Is **Frank Sinatra** fantastically wealthy? Yes & No. Close mutual friends confidentially estimate he may have given away as much as ⅔'s of his wealth as an anonymous benefactor. What's left is still a healthy capital base. One of his latest projects, for which he has shunned publicity, is a benevolent fund for Local 369 in Las Vegas of the American Federation of Musicians. Sinatra is not only appearing in the show, he's quietly picking up the tab for the orchestra. The April 28 affair at the Aladdin's 7,500 seat Theatre for the Performing Arts will also showcase **Sarah Vaughan** and possibly include **Bill Cosby, Wayne Newton, Louie Bellson** and maybe a birthday tribute to the late **Duke Ellington** (it's the day after).

Set the rumors about **Eddie Kendricks'** and **David Ruffin's** reunion with the **Temptations** to rest. A Motown insider confided to me that an album is being cut for March release with various producers, followed by a tour in support of the joint disc.

The Black Music Association has signed **Lou Rawls** to host a 24-hour radio special for June broadcast in support of their Black Music Month concept. ABC Radio is breaking a new 90-minute radio talk show, "Inside Track", on March 16. First guests include **Mick Jagger, Keith Richards** and **Bill Wyman.**

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Tuesday Evening

March 16, 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	CBS News	Family Feud	Jeffersons	MacNeil/	Welcomeback	Good Times	Carol	Joker's
	15	"	"	"	Lehrer	Kotter	"	Burnett	Wild
	30	P.M.	What's	M.A.S.H.	T.Brown's	M.A.S.H.	P.M.	Atlanta	Tic Tac
	45	Magazine	Happening	"	Journal	"	Magazine	Hawks	Dough
8	00	Simon &	Father	Simon &	National	The Waltons	Happy Days	vs.	Happy Days
	15	Simon	Murphy	Simon	Geographic	"	"	Denver	"
	30	"	"	"	"	"	Laverne &	"	Laverne &
	45	"	"	"	"	"	Shirley	"	Shirley
9	00	CBS Movie:	Bret	CBS Movie:	"	Merv Griffin	Three's	"	Three's
	15	"The	Maverick	"The	Vanishing	"	Company	"	Company
	30	Gift Of	"	Gift Of	Giants	"	Too Close	"	Too Close
	45	Life"	"	Life"	Gizmo	"	For Comfort	"	For Comfort
10	00	"	Flamingo	"	"	News	Hart To Hart	TBS News	Hart To Hart
	15	"	Road	"	"	"	"	"	"
	30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
11	00	News	News	News	"	M.A.S.H.	News	All In The Family	News
	15	"	"	"	"	"	"		"
	30	Late Movie:	Tonight	Charlie's	Twilight	Odd Couple	Nightline	TBS Theatre:	Nightline
	45	"	"	Angels	Zone	"	"	"	"
12	00	"	"	"		Perry Mason	Fantasy	"	Sanford &
	15	"	"	"		"	Island	"	Son
	30	"	Late Night	Rockford		"	"	"	Entertain
	45	"	"	"		"	"	"	Tonight

Wednesday Evening

March 17, 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	CBS News	Family Feud	Jeffersons	MacNeil/	Welcomeback	Good Times	Carol	Joker's
	15	"	"	"	Lehrer	Kotter	"	Burnett	Wild
	30	P.M.	What's	M.A.S.H.	Town	M.A.S.H.	P.M.	Sanford &	Tic Tac
	45	Magazine	Happening	"	Meeting	"	Magazine	Son	Dough
8	00	Herbie,	Real	Herbie,	Down Home	The Waltons	Greatest	TBS Theatre:	Greatest
	15	The Love	People	The Love	Country	"	American	"	American
	30	Bug	"	Bug	Music	"	Hero	"	Hero
	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
9	00	WKRP In	Facts Of	WKRP In	"	Merv Griffin	The Fall	"	The Fall
	15	Cincinnati	Life	Cincinnati	Marx	"	Guy	"	Guy
	30	Baker's	Love Sidney	Baker's	Brothers	"	"	"	"
	45	Dozen	"	Dozen	"	"	"	"	"
10	00	Shannon	Quincy	Shannon	"	News	Dynasty	"	Dynasty
	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	TBS News	"
	30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
11	00	News 2	News	News	"	M.A.S.H.	News	All In The Family	News
	15	"	"	"	"	"	"		"
	30	WKRP/	Tonight	Charlie's	Twilight	Odd Couple	Nightline	TBS Theatre:	Nightline
	45	Movie:	"	Angels	Zone	"	"	"	"
12	00	"	"	"		Perry Mason	Love Boat	"	Sanford &
	15	"	"	"		"	"	"	Son
	30	"	Late Night	Rockford		"	"	"	Entertain
	45	"	"	Files		"	"	"	Tonight

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	30	P. M.	What's	M.A.S.H.	Almanac	M.A.S.H.	P.M.	Atlanta	Tic Tac
	45	Magazine	Happening	"	"	"	Magazine	Hawks	Dough
8	00	Magnum,PI	Fame	Magnum,PI	Kingston	The Waltons	Mork &	vs.	Police
	15	"	"	"	Trio &	"	Mindy	"	Squad
	30	"	"	"	Friends	"	Bosom	"	Bosom
	45	"	Show	"	"	"	Buddies	"	Buddies
9	00	People's	Diff'rent	People's	"	"	Barney	"	Barney
	15	Choice	Strokes	Choice	"	"	Miller	"	Miller
	30	Awards	Gimme A	Awards	"	"	Taxi	"	Taxi
	45	"	Break	"	Cagney:	"	"	"	"
10	00	Nurse	Hill Street	Nurse	"	News	20/20	TBS News	20/20
	15	"	Blues	"	"	"	"	"	"
	30	"	"	"	"	"	Special	"	Special
	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
11	00	News	News	News	"	M.A.S.H.	News	All In The Family	News
	15	"	"	"	"	"	"		"
	30	NCAA BB:	Tonight	Charlie's	"	Odd Couple	Nightline	TBS Theatre:	Nightline
	45	"	"	Angels	"	"	"	"	"
12	00	"	"	"		Perry Mason	Vega$	"	Sanford &
	15	"	"	"		"	"	"	Son
	30	"	Late Night	Rockford		"	"	"	Entertain
	45	"	"	Files		"	"	"	Tonight