STROBE

by Tim Walter

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Richie Family's Draher Success Story

I'd stuff my dress with socks," **Ritchie Family** member **Theodosia "Dodie" Draher** tells me, "and with blocks in my socks for high heels, I could be anyone on TV. And even though I was only three, I always knew I was going to grow up to be in show business."

Producer **Fred Petrus** collaborated with the group for their debut on RCA records, taking the trio into a middle-of-the-road pop/funk vein to broaden their stereotypical disco image.

"As far as I'm concerned, this is the best Ritchie Family album," boasts Draher. The Aries has been with the group since 1978: "I'm very pleased with the two ballads; I think 'You Can Always Count On Me' and 'Walk With Me' will help break the disco cast. There's something for everyone here, I love it. Fred was the main factor, as producer, he chose the tunes."

Draher was born in Bangor, Maine; she moved from high-stepping impressions to flute and piano lessons as a teenager, then made her way to New York "via Colorado". With guitarist husband Danny, she sometimes gigs in an act billed as "Double Dynamite".

"Our backgrounds aren't typical," she notes. "**Jacqui (Smith-Lee)** was a ballerina and our lead singer, **Vera Brown**, was a medical secretary." Although the Ritchie Family was originally the brainchild of French entrepreneur **Jacque Morali** in 1974 (he created the **Village People**, too), this new album with the new girls goes a step beyond being just a producer's package. The trio has a blend and an energy that should do well in concert settings. In the past, appearances have been mostly as voice-overs in discos. Draher says a West Coast tour is slated for July.

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While the under 30 set may think of "Little Egypt" as what the Israelis plan to leave the Egyptians, it is, in fact, one of the definitive pieces that the **Coasters** made famous in extending the rich traditions of black spiritual and jubilee quartets into pop music.

If it is one of your fond memories, you may now own the recording cleaned up electronically so that it actually sounds *better* than it did in 1961. The Coasters "Young Blood" is a beautiful two-record set on Atlantic/Deluxe that includes "Shopping' For Clothes," "Riot In Cell Block No. 9" and "Along Came Jones". The material comprises a wealth-laden anthology of the black ghetto in the 50's and the emergence of the modern sound of soul.

"Young Blood" is, however, only one of four power-packed multiple disc packages from Atlantic, including a five-album collection of **Ray Charles'** trend-setting best, the late **Professor Longhair** with his rhumba-thumbing piano blues and Mississippi-Arkansas Delta Stax artist **Albert King.** King's influential blues guitar from the 60's and early 70's radically influenced **Eric Clapton** and other rock greats.

If you support Atlantic by purchasing these pleasure-filled classics, I guarantee there'll be more to come.

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Is it true that **High Inergy**, the group Motown touts as the next **Supremes**, got their name from doing 500 talent shows in one year? The latest album from the Pasadena-based trio is called "So Right"....**Ashford & Simpson** have released "Street Opera" world-wide. Yes, they are mega-star songwriters. This album, in a word, rates like their last. Awful....World tour albums, recorded live, are now out for **The Rolling Stones** and for **Genesis.** Genesis has booked a major U.S. tour for August....It's timeless, it's Motown and it's **O.C. Smith.** "Love Changes" from the man with "Little Green Apples" is destined for a place in the heart of any romantic....Too bad **Millie Jackson's** sassy class has locked her into rap songs (now that the genre is old hat). Her "Live and Outrageous (Rated XXX)" will probably outsell her beautiful, but underpromoted country cross-over album....Is there an r&b clone factory somewhere? That's my assessment of **Change's** Sharing Your Love," **Mass Production's** "In A City Groove" and **Elusion/Limon Wilson's** "Show & Tell."

If you could squeeze **Scott Hamilton, Cal Collins,** the late **Cal Tjader, Nat Pierce, Warren Vache', Bob Maize** and **Jake Hanna** onto a 12" circle of plastic, and front the band with **Rosemary Clooney** singing **Cole Porter**, you'd have a great album. Concord did and they do.

Tuesday Evening

July 20, 1982

		WFMY CH. 2 Cable 11	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	NBC News	M.A.S.H.	MacNeil/ Lehrer	Welcomeback Kotter	Good Times	Green Acres	Joker's Wild
	15								
	30	P.M. Magazine	Family Feud	Jeffersons	This Old House	M.A.S.H.	P.M. Magazine	Atlanta Braves	Tic Tac Dough
	45								
8	00	Universe	Bret Maverick	Universe	Danger UXB	Ike: The War Years	Happy Days		Happy Days
	15								
	30	The Two Of Us		The Two Of Us			Laverne & Shirley		Laverne & Shirley
	45								
9	00	CBS Movie: "The Choice"	Cassie & Co.	CBS Movie: "The Choice"	Mystery!		Three's Company		Three's Company
	15						Too Close For Comfort		Too Close For Comfort
	30								
	45								
10	00		Flamingo Road		Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy	News	Hart To Hart		Hart To Hart
	15								
	30							TBS News	
	45								
11	00	News	Benny Hill	News	Alfred Hitchcock	M.A.S.H.	News		News
	15								
	30	Alice	Tonight	M.A.S.H.	Dave Allen At Large	Odd Couple	Nightline	All In The Family	Nightline
	45								
12	00	McCloud		Rockford Files		Perry Mason	Fantasy Island	Atlanta Braves Replay	Fantasy Island
	15								
	30		David Letterman						
	45								

Wednesday Evening

July 21, 1982

		WFMY CH. 2 Cable 11	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	NBC News	M.A.S.H.	MacNeil/ Lehrer	Welcomeback Kotter	Good Times	Green Acres	Joker's Wild
	15								
	30	P.M. Magazine	Family Feud	Jeffersons	Last Chance Garage	M.A.S.H.	P.M. Magazine	Atlanta Braves	Tic Tac Dough
	45								
8	00	Mr. Merlin	Real People	Mr. Merlin	National Geographic Special	Ike: The War Years	Greatest American Hero		Greatest American Hero
	15								
	30	Cass Malloy		Cass Malloy					
	45								
9	00	CBS Movie: "Rape & Marriage"	Facts Of Life	CBS Movie: "Rape & Marriage"	The Lathe Of Heaven		The Fall Guy		The Fall Guy
	15		Love Sidney		Festival:				
	30								
	45								
10	00		Quincy		Hitchcock	News	Dynasty		Dynasty
	15								
	30				Carthage			TBS News	
	45								
11	00	News 2	Benny Hill	News	Alfred Hitchcock	M.A.S.H.	News		News
	15								
	30	Late Movie:	Tonight	M.A.S.H.	Dave Allen At Large	Odd Couple	Nightline	All In The Family	Nightline
	45								
12	00			Rockford Files		Perry Mason	Love Boat	Atlanta Braves Replay	Love Boat
	15								
	30		David Letterman						
	45								

Thursday Evening

July 22, 1982

		WFMY CH. 2 Cable 11	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	NBC News	M.A.S.H.	MacNeil/ Lehrer	Welcomeback Kotter	Good Times	Green Acres	Joker's Wild
	15								
	30	P. M. Magazine	Family Feud	Jeffersons	T.Brown's Journal	M.A.S.H.	P.M. Magazine	Andy Griffith	Tic Tac Dough
	45								
8	00	Magnum.PI	Fame	Magnum.PI	Paper Chase	Metromedia: "Walking Tall" Pt. II	Darkroom	TBS Movie:	Darkroom
	15								
	30								
	45								
9	00	Simon & Simon	Diff'rent Strokes	Simon & Simon	Sneak Previews		Barney Miller		Barney Miller
	15		High Five		HitchHiker Guide		Police Squad		Police Squad
	30								
	45								
10	00	Knot's Landing	Hill Street Blues	Knot's Landing	Austin City Limits	News	20/20	TBS News	20/20
	15								
	30								
	45								
11	00	News 2	Benny Hill	News	Alfred Hitchcock	M.A.S.H.	News	All In The Family	News
	15								
	30	Quincy	Tonight	M.A.S.H.	Dave Allen At Large	Odd Couple	Nightline	TBS Theatre:	Nightline
	45								
12	00			Rockford		Perry Mason	VegaS		VegaS
	15								
	30	McMillan & Wife	David Letterman						
	45								