

# Record review

Bob Woodhead

24/1/85

The pop charts of 1985 have come alive at last, after the usual Christmas "hangover" into the New Year. One Chichester record retailer told me that sales of pop singles had increased three-fold between the first and second weeks in January, and this tends to be the pattern right across Britain.

On the main singles chart Foreigner have been enjoying their first No. 1 hit with "I want to know what love is."

They are a four-piece group, based in New York, although three of them are British, and their best-known hit prior to this was "Waiting for a girl like you," a Top Ten hit in January, 1982.

That particular disc created history in America by staying at No. 2 for no less than ten weeks behind Olivia Newton-John's "Physical."

Back up-to-date with Wham, who go into the record books with the double-A-side "Last Christmas" / "Everything she wants," which sold more than one million copies without reaching No. 1.

Although Acker Bilk's "Stranger on the Shore" went platinum, it did reach No. 1 on some of the charts, in the days when there were several different listings relied upon.

Undoubtedly, there will be plenty of local interest in the current Top Ten hit, "I know him so well," by Barbara Dickson and Elaine Bickerstaff, daughter of a Bognor Regis estate agent, but better known as Elaine Paige.

The song comes from the musical "Chess," composed by Tim Rice, Benny

Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus, the latter two gentlemen being the male half of Abba.

It is the second hit for this talented trio of writers, following in the footsteps of Murray Head's "One Night in Bangkok."

There are new singles released by Phil Collins ("Sussudio" on Virgin Records), Jim Diamond ("I sleep alone at night" on A.S.M.), ex-Eagle Don Henley ("The Boys of Summer" on Epic), and for lovers of nostalgia there is the Sweet's "It's the Sweet Mix" on Anagram (who said compilation-singles were dead?).

George Benson sweeps back into action with a new L.P. on W.E.A. Records called "20/20," and to promote it he has released the title track as a single.

Philip Bailey, the falsetto voice of Earth Wind and Fire has released a second solo album called "Chinese Wall" (C.B.S. 26161) produced by Phil Collins, which is well worth a listen.

The two men perform a fine duet, "Easy Lover," a Top Five hit in America, which will probably remain an album track here due to contractual difficulties. However, the closing ballad, "Children of the Ghetto," written by the Amoo brothers of Liverpool's Real Thing (inspired by the Toxteth troubles) has already been released as a single.

For me, Mr. Bailey possesses the most soulful voice in the business, but it can be drowned on the up-tempo number, so it is a pity that there are not more slow songs on the L.P.



A local man who started collecting records at the age of six and has a wide knowledge of the pop scene is to write a weekly column for the Observer.

He is 29-year-old Bob Woodhead, who spends much of his free time listening to and collecting L.P.s and cassettes and he will discuss new releases, chart entries and best-sellers.

Bob was born in Aldwick and now lives at Arundel Park, Chichester. He graduated from Reading University with a second-class honours degree in law and is Administrator for the NALGO office at Chichester District Council's East Pallant House.

His wife, Sylvia, is a music and nursery teacher at a local school.

During the past three years Bob has written pop columns for various publications and appeared on radio programmes, and his articles in the Observer should attract wide interest among readers.

### L.P. Chart

- 1 Alf (Alison Moyet).
- 2 The Collection (Ultravox).
- 3 Make It Big (Wham).
- 4 The Hits Album (Various Artists).
- 5 Agent Provocateur (Foreigner).
- 6 Now That's What I call Music 4 (Various Artists).

### Nightclub Chart

- 1 Like a Virgin (Madonna).
- 2 Fresh (Kool and the Gang).
- 3 Let It All Blow (Dazz Band).
- 4 Treat Her Like A Lady (Temptations).
- 5 You Used To Hold Me So Tight (Thelma Houston).
- 6 Ghostbusters (Ray Parker, jr.).