Record review

Bob Woodhead

12/9/83

Last week, Mick Jagger and David Bowie's "Dancing In The Street" went straight to No. 1 in the Singles Chart, selling 500,000 in its first week. It is Jagger's first chart-topper since 1969 when the Rolling Stones' "Honky Tonk Women" turned the trick.

The strongest challenge for No. 1 is likely to be made by Madonna, whose new single "Angel" comes out this week. As reported three weeks ago, it is a track taken from her "Like A Virgin" album, and it is being released ahead of schedule now that "Into The Groove" is slipping down the charts. It is a very melodic dance number that soon becomes implanted in your mind.

C.B.S. are releasing "Living On My Own," which is the best cut from Freddie Mercury's "Mr. Bad Guy" L.P. This song really highlights the man's vocal athleticism, and his "tongue-in-cheek" style. Other new 45s include Dead Or Alive's "My Heart Goes Bang" (from "Youthquake"), the Smiths' "The Boy With The Thorn In His Side," and Miquel Brown's "Close To Perfection," a smooth, mid-tempo, soul song.

Go West have been meeting Sylvester Stallone to discuss the possibility of recording two songs for the "Rocky 4" soundtrack, while Paul Hardcastle and Mike Oldfield have settled their quarrel over the similarity between "19" and "Tubular Bells." Oldfield's name has been added to the songwriting credit, so "19" has become the first No. 1 hit he helped to (involuntarily) write!

During the first half of 1984, 47.4 per cent. of albums were sold on cassette and nearly three per cent on compact-disc. This means that the long-playing record fell below 50 per cent. for the first time.

As far as new albums go, the pick of the week comes from the Cure. It is called "The Head On The Door" (on Fiction) and it has already zoomed straight into the L.P. chart at No. 7. There are five tracks on each side, including the recent hit "In Between Days," and the new 45 "Close To Me" which comes out tomorrow.

All the songs were composed by singer Robert Smith, who certainly seems to be the driving force behind the group. He also plays guitars and keyboards. The best songs on Side One are "Kyoto Song," which has an Eastern feel to it, and "The Blood," which is performed in a Spanish style. On Side Two, "The Baby Screems" is a real belter with an effective chord-pattern, backed up by a powerful bass line. "A Night Like This" has a middle-eight played on saxophone, while the appropriately titled "Sinking" ends the set in sombre mood.

L.P. CHART

1. Now That's What I Call Music 5 (Various).
2. Like A Virgin (Madonna).
3. Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
4. Sacred Heart (Dio).
5. The Kenny Rogers Story.
6. Songs From The Big Chair (Tears For Fears).
7. The Head On The Door (The Cure).
8. No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).
9. Madonna.
10. Born In The U.S.A. (Bruce Springsteen).

Record Review

Bob Woodhead

19/9/84

Phil Fearon and Galaxy have released a second album entitled "This Kind Of Love" (on Ensign). They have been on the scene since early 1983, although Phil had three hits with Kandidate way back in 1979, the biggest being "I Don't Wanna Lose You." He records all his songs in a garage-studio at home in London.

This album has only taken him a year to write and produce, compared with the two years it took for the debut "Phil Fearson And Galaxy," which was one of my favourite L.P.'s of 1984. In my opinion he should have taken longer to make this record as it sounds rather "samey" and lacks the fresh, melodic variety of its predecessor. For example, the three ballads on this set pale into insignificance when compared with slowies like "Fantasy Real" on the first album.

The best tracks are those that have already been out as singles, namely "You Don't Need A Reason" and "This Kind Of Love", which Phil sings in duet with Dee Galdes. Both songs reached the Top 75 but failed to make the Top 40, which is a great injustice. The best of the new songs is the closing track entitled "Don't You Care At All" which is an uptempo dance number, and this would be the wisest choice for Phil's next 45 release. Despite the criticism, fans of the group will be well satisfied with the L.P.

TWINS' L.P.

In the shops tomorrow will be new L.P. by the Thompson Twins called "Here's To Future Days". The group has composed all the songs on this record except for "Revolution" which is a cover-version of the Beatles' B-side to "Hey Jude." The Twins' anti-drug song "Don't Mess With Doctor Dream", which has been enjoying Top 20 success, is also included. There is a bonus for those people who buy the album early enough, in the shape of an extra L.P. containing remixes of songs like "Heavens Above" and "Shoot Out."

Also new on the album-front is a compilation of "Golden Greats" by the Detroit Spinners, featuring their Atlantic label hits of the 1970's and 80's. The best new single of the week is "Rebel Yell" which is Billy Idol's follow-up to "White Wedding". Diana Ross also has a new 45 out, and it's called "Eaten Alive". Elton John, Stevie Wonder and Dionne Warwick have made a record together entitled "That's What Friends Are For", which is due for release soon. The profits from its sales will raise funds for research into the killer disease AIDS.

After the amazing coincidence of "I Got You Babe" reaching No. 1 exactly 20 years after the original did so, it is extraordinary to note that Mick Jagger played a part in dethroning it from the top on both occasions! In 1965 the Rolling Stones's "Satisifaction" took over at No. 1, and in 1985 Jagger and Bowie's "Dancing In The Street" did so.

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7 Born In The U.S.A. (Bruce Springsteen)
8 Madonna
9 The Head On The Door (The Cure)
10 Boys And Girls (Bryan Ferry)