26/9/85

Record Review

Cliff Richard's latest record "She's So Beautiful" is his 89th hit, and he is now only 19 behind the most prolific hitmaker of all-time, Elvis Presley.

Stevie Wonder and David Bowie (who are both riding high in the charts this week) share third place with 40 hits apiece.

Madonna's "Like a Virgin" album has finally reached the summit after 44 weeks in the LP chart, and five weeks at No. 2. I understand that her record company is already planning the release of her next single in October which is to be "The Gambler" taken from the movie "Vision Quest," so anyone not liking her music had better emigrate!

Having said that, she is enjoying success and constant radioplay in almost every country around the world at present.

In America Dire Straits are No. 1 with both the LP "Brothers In Arms" and the single "Money For Nothing." The song that spent four months in the British Top 40, "Cherish" by Kool and the Gang is close behind at No. 2.

The hottest new dance record is Cameo's "Single Life" (on Club) which contains shades of "The Good, The Bad And The Ugly." Nevertheless this has not stopped it from racing up the Top 40 and going to No. 1 in the Disco chart. Another new jazz funk sound to watch out for is "Something About You" by those masters from the Isle of Wight, Level 42 (on Polydor).

The best record in the Top Ten this week is Midge Ure's "If I was," which is his first solo effort for three years. It has certainly been worth the wait and it would certainly be justice if this powerful, dramatic song went all the way to No. 1.

On the album scene Klaus Wunderlich has released a long-player with a difference (on Polydor). Entitled "Strictly For Dancing" this is an ideal disc for any dancing instructors or schools, on which Klaus takes us through the history of dance music with his one-man orchestra on keyboards. Musically the best tracks are the tango medley featuring "Jealousy" and the rumba medley featuring "Spanish Eyes."

Other new LP's include Bronski Beat's "Hundreds And Thousands" which contains remixes of their previous tracks plus a couple of unreleased songs, and Stevie Wonder's "In Square Circle." This a ten-track affair, packed in a gatefold sleeve which includes an eight-page booklet. Stevie has come up to his usual high standard with an album of dance, rhythm, ballad and melody, demonstrating the versatility we all know and love him for. There are guest vocals from Philip Bailey, Denise Williams, Syreeta and Luther Vandross. Stevie has now been having hits for 22 years and he is still only 35 years old . . . some talent!

LP CHART

1. Like A Virgin (Madonna).
2. Now That's What I Call Music 5 (Various).
3. Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
4. The Kenny Rogers Story.
5. Misplaced Childhood (Marillion).
6. No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).
7. Songs From The Big Chair (Tears For Fears).
8. Madonna.
9. The Head On The Door (The Cure).
10. Boys and Girls (Bryan Ferry).

3rd 3/10/85

Record Review

The radio programme "30 Years Of Rock" has now moved to a later time of 2 p.m. on Saturdays (Radio 1, FM Stereo), and this week the series has reached Episode 25, looking at my favourite year of the Seventies, 1979.

It was the year when disco music matured and the punk artists turned their hand to producing more serious contributions with style.

Last week the complete Top 75 singles were available in both 7-inch and 12-inch formats for the first time ever. Disc-jockey Paul Burnett, who had a No. 4 hit in 1976 with his pal Dave Lee Travis on "Convoy GB", has made a return to the recording scene.

Destined

Going by the name of "Pee Bee Squad" he has made an hilarious send-up of the movie character Rambo entitled, "Rugged and Mean, Butch and on Screen", and this is destined to become a big hit.

Also targetted for the Top Ten is another new 45 from Tears For Fears "Big Chair" album. It is one of their best tracks called "I Believe". Other new singles include "Last Days of Summer", by the ever-polished Imagination, "Conversation", the old Cilla Black hit, by Barry Biggs, and "I Wish He Didn't Trust Me So Much" by Bobby Womack.

The album of the week is "The Dream Academy" (on Blanco Y Negro). The Dream Academy are Gilbert Gabriel (keyboards and vocals), Nick Laird-Clowes (lead vocals, guitars and harmonica), and Kate St John (vocals, oboe, saxophone and other instruments).

All the lyrics are by Nick and he also co-wrote the music with Gilbert. He co-produced the album with Dave Gilmour (ex-Pink Floyd), who plays guitar on a coule of songs.

Variety

On the closing song "One Dream" Nick sounds like another young singer with the same Christian name, namely Mr. Heywood at his whimsical best.

Generally though his voice sounds like Barry Manilow on the more soulful and like Al Stewart on the folk/rock numbers.

There is plenty of variety on the record and it really stands out as one of the best this year.

On Monday Midge Ure is releasing his first ever solo LP called "The Gift", while Dead Or Alive are issuing a six-track video containing their six hits, named after their successful album "Youthquake."

★ ★ ★

LP CHART

1 Hounds of Love (Kate Bush).

2 Like A Virgin (Madonna).

3 Now That's What I Call Music 5 (Various).

4 Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).

5 (equal) In Square Circle (Stevie Wonder).

6 Here's To Future Days (Thompson Twins).

7 The Kenny Rogers Story.

8 Misplaced Childhood (Marillion).

9 Madonna.

10 No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).