

Record Review

Bob Woodhead

Tomorrow Robin Gibb releases his third solo album entitled "Walls Have Eyes" (on Polydor). To all intents and purposes this is a Bee Gees' record as Barry and Maurice Gibb are heavily involved. Maurice produced the disc with Tom Dowd, and all ten numbers were written by Robin and Maurice with Barry helping on eight of them.

For the first time the brothers have caught up with the Eighties' sound

and if this offering gets air-play it could do very well. On Side One the opener "You Don't Say Us Anymore" is a perfectly crafted technopop song while "Heartbeat In Exile" and "Toys" reflect the moody Bee Gees at their songwriting peak.

There is similar variety on Side Two with the modern sounding "Someone To Believe In" and the title track. Then there is the ballad "Gone With The Wind" and the pop song "Do You Love Her?"

Re-released tomorrow is "Do They Know It's Christmas" but with a new

B-side containing a Paul Hardcastle re-mix of the song. Similarly, Slade's "Merry Xmas Everybody" will be out again but it will be the first time you can buy a 12-inch extended version re-mixed by Jimmy Lea and Peter Hammond this year, and it sounds good.

Also in the shops this week is Paul McCartney's new single "Spies Like Us" which is very disappointing and hardly a credit to the man.

Next Friday Bryan Ferry's "Windswept" will be available on a 45, but the 12-inch will be the best

buy as it includes a full-colour poster.

Jennifer Rush has become the first female singer to be awarded a Platinum disc for one million sales of a single in Britain alone, while Dave Stewart is the only person to produce two chart-toppers this year, namely "There Must Be An Angel" (Eurythmics) and "A Good Heart" (Feargal Sharkey).

Frankie Goes to Hollywood's next single will be called "Rage Hard" and it is likely to be issued early in the new year.

The best pop book on the Christmas market is John Tobler's "30 Years Of Rock" published by Hamlyn at £7.50.

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Anyone searching for an L.P. to fill a Christmas stocking need look no further than the recent Top Tenner, "The Singles 81-85," by Depeche Mode (on Mute).

This is the best packaged album for a long time, coming in a gatefold sleeve covered with pictures of the group and an inner-sleeve that includes information about every track.

This info even includes the original music-press reviews of each song and photographs of all the singles covers.

On the record the singles are pressed in chronological order, taking listeners through the development

of the Depeche sound. They have been regular visitors to the Top Twenty, but I have always considered that the reason they never made the top league is that their music lacks power and the fashionable high energy.

They are a fine, light pop, outfit dishing out catchy electronic tunes, but when you listen to this album you are somehow always waiting for something to happen.

The annoying thing is that Depeche have the talent to make it happen and one day they just might! Hits on this disc include "Just Can't Get Enough", "See You" and "Everything Counts."

Another suggestion for a stocking-filler is "Telly Hits" (on Stylus/B.B.C.), which contains the most popular theme-tunes to current B.B.C. television programmes including "Bergerac", "Howard's Way", "Eastenders" and "Big Deal." There is music to suit all tastes on this pleasantly varied album.

Spandau Ballet are unhappy about Chrysalis releasing their "Singles' Collection" L.P. which is in the charts. They are hoping to change labels and C.B.S. are the favourites to sign them.

However, "The Singles' Collection" is a good buy, particularly the limited-edition double album which has some of their best 12-inch versions of the hits.

As revealed in this column five weeks ago, Madonna's new single is "Dress You Up", which is yet another superb track from her Nile Rodgers's produced "Like A Virgin" album, that has just begun its second year in the L.P. charts.

Other 45s to watch out for are "Sun City" by Artists Against Apartheid, "See The Day" by Dee C. Lee, and "Saving All My Love For You", the former American No. 1, by Dionne Warwick's cousin, Whitney Houston.

L.P. CHART

- 1 Promise (Sade)
- 2 Love Songs (George Benson)
- 3 Ice On Fire (Elton John)
- 4 Afterburner (ZZ Top)
- 5 Once Upon A Time (Simple Minds)
- 6 Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits)
- 7 Jennifer Rush
- 8 Spandau Ballet's Singles Collection
- 9 Hounds Of Love (Kate Bush)
- 10 Out Now 2 (Various)