Record review

Bob Woodhead

Last week Meat Loaf's "Bat Out of Hell" album made history. It first entered the L.P. chart in March 1978, staying there for 40 weeks before dropping out.

Then in January 1979 it returned for a run that now amounts to 321 consecutive weeks, beating the all-time record of 320 straight weeks set by "The Sound of Music" between 1965 and 1971.

The soundtrack eventually spent a complete total of 381 weeks on the chart, so assuming "Bat Out of Hell" doesn't falter, Meat Loaf will claim the all-time record of 382 weeks in grand total on August 8 this year.

Outstanding

Apart from being a truly outstanding album of many moods, perhaps the secret of its longevity lies in the fact that No. 9 was its highest position, implying that sales have always been steady rather than spectacular.

The "unconverted" who only associate Meat Loaf with heavy rock music, would do well to listen to the powerful ballads "For Crying Out Loud" and "Heaven Can Wait" . . . real classics of their time.

One of the finest singles of 1978 was Third World's "Now That We've Found Love" (on Island), a unique blend of reggae and soul, and it is pleasing to see that this is now back in the charts again, on re-issue.

Tears for Fears have released a new single that is arguably their best ever. Taken from their "Big Chair" L.P., the song is called "Everybody Wants To Rule The World" (on Mercury), and it is already proving to be their biggest hit in America.

Criticism

Other new singles include King's "Won't You Hold My Hand Now" (on C.B.S.), and a worthy cover version of the Detroit Spinners' "Could It Be I'm Falling in Love," recorded by David Grant and Jaki Graham (on Chrysalis).

Howard Jones has released his third album called "Dream Into Action" (on WEA WX 15), on which he continues from where he left off on "Human's Lib" and "The 12-inch album". Indeed, there lies the criticism . . . he fails to divert or progress from his familiar pattern of music, and many of the songs are based on ideas that we've already heard.

There can be no argument about the quality though, and this should keep the cash-registers ringing for Howard through 1985, as we've already seen with the single "Things Can Only Get Better." He has also set his rivals a good example by providing 12 tracks for our fiver's worth . . . something of a rarity these days!

L.P. CHART

1. No Jacket Required (Phil Collins)
2. Songs from the Big Chair (Tears for Fears)
3. Born in the U.S.A. (Bruce Springsteen)
4. Bat Out of Hell (Meat Loaf)
5. Alf (Alison Moyet)
6. She's the Boss (Mick Jagger)

NIGHTCLUB CHART

1. Solid (Ashford and Simpson)
2. Shaft (Eddy and the Soul Band)
3. Personality (Eugene Wilde)
4. Nightshift (Commodores)
5. You Spin me Round Like a Record (Dead or Alive)
6. Who Comes to Boogie (Little Benny & the Masters).

Record review

Liverpool group Dead or Alive have created pop history with their disc, "You Spin Me Round (Like a Record)," which has a very similar feel to New Order's "Blue Monday." Released on November 5, it finally reached number one last week on its 15th week in the charts, easily beating the shared record of 12 weeks taken by Mantovani's "Moulin Rouge," Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World," Jane Berkin's "Je t'aime Moi Non Plus," and Frankie Goes to Hollywood's "Relax."

It is interesting to note that the last two songs were banned by the B.B.C. during their climb to the top. "You Spin Me Round" and "Relax" are also the only records to descend the chart on their way to the top.

Dionne Warwick and Barry Manilow have renewed their musical alliance by releasing a single called "Run to Me." The B-side features Dionne's 1982 hit "Heartbreaker," and the 12in. version includes Barry's song, "Paradise Cafe."

Eddy Grant has rearranged and rerecorded the 1968 number one hit he had with the Equals called "Baby Come Back," and this was released last week.

Also remixed and newly released is Meat Loaf's "Piece Of The Action," taken from his L.P. "Bad Attitude." The 12in. format features a poster of the man himself, and there will be discs available in the shape of a skull . . . not for the faint-hearted!

Big Daddy have released an excellent version of Bruce Springsteen's "Dancing in the Dark," in a style which can be best described as old-fashioned swing, while the Roaring Boys make their debut with "Every Second of the Day," on Epic.

Fans of the television series "EastEnders" will be pleased to know that they can now buy the catchy theme-tune on B.B.C. Records, recorded by Simon May.

Mick Jagger's long-awaited solo album, "She's the Boss" (on CBS 86310), is now on the market. The nine tracks were mostly recorded in New York, and six of them are Jagger's own compositions. Only one song, "Lonely at the Top," was written with Rolling Stones' partner Keith Richards, the man with a home in West Wittering.

L.P. CHART

1: No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).
2: Songs from the Big Chair (Tears for Fears).
3: Born in the U.S.A. (Bruce Springsteen).
4: Hits out of Hell (Meat Loaf).
5: Alf (Alison Moyet).
6: Meat is Murder (The Smiths).

NIGHTCLUB CHART

1: Solid (Ashford and Simpson).
2: Personality (Eugene Wilde).
3: Nightshift (The Commodores).
4: Yah Mo b There (James Ingram and Michael McDonald).
5: Who Comes to Boogie (Little Benny and the Masters).
6: Love and Pride (King).

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