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Record Review

by Bob Woodhead

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25/4/85

You may recall my mentioning that Gerry and the Pacemakers and Frankie goes to Hollywood are the only artists to have three number one hits with their first three releases. And by an amazing coincidence their fourth singles both reached the number two spot.

"I'm The One" came to a halt at number two for Gerry and the Pacemakers in 1964, and "Welcome To The Pleasure Dome" is, now descending the charts having been blocked from number one by the two Phil's with "Easy Lover."

BOB WOODHEAD

Radio Victory have followed the idea of B.B.C. Radio Sussex by compiling a Top 100 based on listeners' votes for their three all-time favourite records. Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" was the favourite disc on both stations, but the remainder of the list was very different.

The remainder of Victory's Top 10, was: 2, Imagine (John Lennon); 3, Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen); 4, The House Of The Rising Sun (Animals); 5, A Whiter Shade Of Pale (Procol Harum); 6, Nights In White Satin (Moody Blues); 7, Albatross (Fleetwood Mac); 8, I Just Called To Say I Love You (Stevie Wonder); 9, I'm Not In Love (10cc); 10, Stranger On The Shore (Acker Bilk).

For those interested in rock history and political events of the last three decades, I would recommend the B.B.C. radio series "30 Years Of Rock" (Radio 1, VHF Stereo, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays). It is an update of the award-winning "25 Years of Rock," and each week they look at the most

important records and events for every year between 1955 and 1984. This week, being the third in the series, they will be putting 1957 under the microscope. In my opinion it is the best series ever produced by Radio 1, together with their 1973 serial, "Alan Freeman's Story of Pop."

On the subject of Radio 1, their breakfast-time DJ Mike Read has launched a new board-game, available in toy departments, called "The Pop Quiz Game."

Dead Or Alive have followed-up "You Spin Me Round" with another strong dance number entitled "Lover Come Back To Me," while John Fogerty has released the excellent "Rock And Roll Girls," his strongest song since "Have You Ever Seen The Rain" in 1971. If this doesn't see him back in the charts then nothing will. Meanwhile, Freddie Mercury has issued "I Was Born To Love You."

My favourite L.P. release of the week is Loose Ends' "So Where Are You" (on Virgin), which should please all those who have bought their recent 45, "Hangin' On A String."

L.P. CHART

- 1, Hits 2 (Various).
- 2, The Secret of Association (Paul Young).
- 3, Songs From The Big Chair (Tears For Fears).
- 4, No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).
- 5, Andrew Lloyd Webber Requiem (Various).
- 6, Born In The U.S.A. (Bruce Springsteen).
- 7, Welcome To The Pleasure Dome (Frankie Goes To Hollywood).
- 8, Alf (Alison Moyet).
- 9, Dream Into Action (Howard Jones).
- 10, Go West (Go West)

U.S.A. For Africa's "We Are The World" is the second longest No. 1 single ever, running for six minutes, 24 seconds. Only the Beatles' "Hey Jude," which ran for seven minutes, 15 seconds, in 1968, outlasts it.

Forty-four singers and eight instrumentalists perform on the record, and 21 of them are featured on solo-vocals... three times more than any other hit.

It is with regret that I have to report the death last month of the Singing Nun, who was famous for the 1963 hit "Dominique." I am also sad to report that singer Jimi Somerville is leaving Bronski Beat due to pressures of the music business. He apparently wants to experiment by singing to the accompaniment of more conventional instruments, but may eventually return to the group.

On a more cheerful note, Kenny Everett, who is currently brightening up

our TV screens on Saturday evenings, has released "Snot Rap II" as a single this week, and I can promise you "it's all done in the best possible taste!"

Philip Bailey follows-up his No. 1 with "Walking On The Chinese Wall," which is the title track to his L.P. The song stands up well as an album track but is not the material that hit singles are made of. There are many better tracks that C.B.S. could have picked.

Divine has revived the old Four Seasons' hit "Walk Like A Man," completely changing the song from its original style, while Go West release "Call Me" tomorrow. Although the song is taken from their L.P., the F...e is a completely new...k entitled "The Man In The Mirror."

Also new this week is Mick Jagger's "Lucky In Love" (on C.B.S.). Mick is now busy recording with the Rolling Stones, who hope to issue a new L.P. in the summer.

The waiting for a new Prince album is over. It's out this week and is called "Around The World In A Day." Unfortunately, this is rather a self-indulgent package, in which he makes it quite clear that he wants the world to know about his religious views, which duly come across in psychedelic fashion. Side Two is certainly the best part of the record... the highlight being the uptempo "America," but overall the disc does not live up to expectations.

The famine-relief continues to grow, with musicians from several countries joining in. There are now records available by Welsh and Canadian Band-Aids, and even Hearing-Aid, which is made up of heavy-metal stars! It seems that Bob Geldorf has certainly started a major trend, and that 1985 will be remembered as the year of the "charity-ensemble"!

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- 9 Go West (Go West).
- 10 Love Not Money (Everything But The Girl).