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Record Review

Bob Woodhead

British soul-singers the Cool Notes recently made an appearance at Brooksies Nightclub, Chichester. They sang to pre-recorded backing-tracks of their best known numbers including last year's Top Twenty hits "Spend The Night" and "In Your Car" as well as their great new single "Into The Motion." A sizeable crowd packed into the club and a good time was had by all.

After the performance I chatted with Heather, Lorraine, Ian and Steve who came across as a friendly, unassuming group. They have been together for 11 years. The first eight of those years were spent playing reggae and they enjoyed minor success in 1979 with a record called "My Tune." I talked mostly with Ian Dunstan, co-author of the excellent "Come On Back To Me" which appears on the B-side of the 12-inch version of "Into The Motion.

In complete contrast to the Cool Notes, the controversial group Sigue Sigue Sputnik (pictured right) are climbing the charts with their second 45 "21st Century Boy" and they are possibly going to start another interesting trend by filling the gaps between tracks on their album with advertisement jingles! They are selling space on the record at £10,000 each in every major record-buying nation.

Having reviewed several soul albums recently, this week I am turning my attention to a brilliant rock LP that will be in the shops on Monday. It is "The Queen Is Dead" by the Smiths which has to be the year's second best album . . . my favourite being "Please" by the Pet Shop Boys.

Kicking off Side One is the title-track, a frenzied, energetic, guitar-based number, which takes us into the tongue-in-cheek, melodic tones of "Frankly Mr. Shankly" . . . a mid-eighties music hall favourite perhaps? From here on the record moves into the group's familiar poetic, melancholy pattern, with songs like "I Know It's Over" and "Never Had No One Ever".

Side Two opens with their two recent hits but my favourite cut is "There Is A Light That Never Goes Out" on which Johnny Marr's seductive guitar-playing is complemented by an orchestral string backing.

New this week on limited-edition picture-disc is "Paperback Writer" by the Beatles, which was originally released as their 12th single on June 10, 1966, providing them with their tenth consecutive No. 1 hit.

LP CHART

1 So (Peter Gabriel).
2 Picture Book (Simply Red).
3 Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
4 Street Life (Bryan Ferry/Roxy Music).
5 Love Zone (Billy Ocean).
6 Standing On A Beach (Cure).
7 Whitney Houston.
8 Into The Light (Chris De Burgh).
9 World Machine (Level 42).
10 Bangs and Crashes (Go West).

Pictured above is the controversial group Sigue Sigue Sputnik, who are climbing the charts with their second 45 "21st Century Boy".