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Record review

by Bob Woodhead

One of the most consistent British bands of the 80s has been UB40 whose latest album is "Rat In The Kitchen." The title track features Herb Alpert as guest trumpet player and he brightens up an otherwise indifferent number. The former Tijuana Brass leader has lost none of his distinctive style.

The best song is "All I Want To Do" which will surely become a massive hit single now it is released on the smaller format. It has a vital feel to it and you can almost hear the excitement and enjoyment the band must have felt when they recorded this.

REGGAE

Another interesting cut is "The Elevator" which can be best described as a futurist reggae song. Although there is not much melody it works quite well. Also included is the recent Top Ten hit "Sing Our Own Song."

Sting is keeping his fans happy with a double "live" L.P. entitled "Bring On The Night". Personally I have preferred his post-Police solo work to his music with the group, but this package includes a mixture of songs from different periods in his career. Highlights include "Driven To Tears", "We Work The Black Seam", "Moon Over Bourbon Street", and "Love Is The Seventh Wave".

Anothe male vocalist more readily associated with groups is Steve Winwood who was 15 years old when he began with the Spencer Davis Group and only 17 when they hit the No. 1 spot in 1966 with "Keep On Running". He went on to form Traffic and Blind Faith before pursuing a solo career. On his current album "Back In The High Life" he has enlisted the help of several well known singers and musicians and the songs come across as vibrant, dynamic affairs. The L.P. includes "Higher Love", his most successful solo hit, but Side Two comes across better. It has a contemporary feel to it with some danceable rhythms.

FOLK MUSIC

Fans of folk music are being well catered for at the moment with splendid L.P. releases by Suzanne Vega and in particular Chris De Burgh. While Vega's success has come fairly rapidly, the under-rated De Burgh has worked hard for many years producing some fine recordings that have met with little chart success. His current album "Into The Light" has rectified this situation. Inevitably the highlight is the track called "The Lady In Red" which has been No. 1 in the Singles Chart also.

As predicted in this column back in July Big Country have released "One Great Thing", a chanting singalong number, taken from their "Seer" L.P. Also remixed and newly released on 45s are the Pet Shop Boys' "Suburbia" and the Housemartins' "Think For A Minute", both of which were picked out for a special mention as top album tracks in this column.

● UB 40.

L.P. CHART

1 Now That's What I Call Music 7 (Various).
2 Break Every Rule (Tina Turner).
3 Revenge (Eurythmics).
4 Graceland (Paul Simon).
5 Silk And Steel (5 Star).
6 True Blue (Madonna).
7 Crash (Human League).
8 Slippery When Wet (Bon Jovi).
9 A Kind Of Magic (Queen).
10 Dancing On The Ceiling (Lionel Richie).