

Record Review

It is always pleasing to correctly predict success for a new record by an unknown artist, and such was the case for "We Don't Have To Take Our Clothes Off," by Jermaine Stewart which was recommended in this column back in July. By September the song had climbed to number two in the charts, and Mr. Stewart continues the momentum with a splendid new LP entitled "Frantic Romantic."

You will not hear many better pop songs this year than the title-track itself and this will surely become another Top Ten smash. The next best song is the raucy, risqué "Out To Punish," with its ceaseless, soulful energy and powerful rhythm. Most of the tracks were produced by the talented Naranda Michael Walden whose other hits this year include Whitney Houston's "How Will I Know" and Aretha Franklin's "Freeway Of Love," to say nothing of his earlier pedigree. Narada, Preston Glass and Jermaine also collaborated on much of the songwriting.

The new single "Jody" can also be heard on the album and you can see Jermaine performing this on B.B.C. television's "Wogan" show on Monday evening. Of the remaining numbers John "Jellybean" Benitez's production of "Dance Floor" is also outstanding but every track is a winner. There are even a couple of slow ballads thrown in for good measure.

To celebrate their 20th anniversary the Monkees have issued an LP called "Then And Now — The Best Of The Monkees" featuring 11 of their origi-

nal songs from their 1966 to 1968 heydays, and three new songs including the single "That Was Then, This Is Now." In their selection of the originals they have committed the cardinal sin of missing out "Alternate Title," which in my view was their best record. In 1967 it reached No. 2 in the charts so I am sure that others will also be disappointed with the omission.

- Some of the other tracks on the album were originally B-sides which leaves me puzzled about the selection.
- The most stunning promotional video this year was probably Queen's "A King Of Magic" which included the most sophisticated computer-graphics to date. You can now buy this on a video-single coupled with "Who Wants To Live



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Frankie Goes to Hollywood have released their second album entitled "Liverpool" exactly two years after their first, which was "Welcome To The Pleasuredome." That double-L.P. was one of the most stunning and entertaining records of the 1980s in my opinion. Writing and recording a follow-up was always going to be difficult with the result likely to be disappointing, and that is the way it has turned out.

Nevertheless the group have created history with the first 45 to be lifted from the new album, "Rage Hard," which was their fifth single release. It

reached No. 4 in the singles chart, meaning that they have made the best-ever start to a pop career. Together with Gerry And The Pacemakers they are the only artists to enjoy three chart-toppers with their first three releases, and by coincidence both acts reached No. 2 with their fourth record. But Gerry And The Pacemakers' fifth disc, "Don't Let The Sun Catch You Crying" came to a halt at No. 6, two places lower than "Rage Hard."

The new single by Frankies called "Warriors Of The Wasteland" is also on the L.P., but like many of the tracks it

fails to captivate the listener in the way that much of their earlier work did. On side two, "Lunar Bay" has a pounding beat and features comedian Stan Boardman, but the best songs are the last two. "For Heaven's Sake" can be best described as a mid-tempo, waltz number, but "Is Anybody Out There?" is a brilliant Holly Johnson ballad in the "Power Of Love" mould. I feel sure this will give the band a Top Ten smash if it is released on a 45.

Eventually the time must come when Mr. Johnson will break away and enjoy a successful solo career. He has the

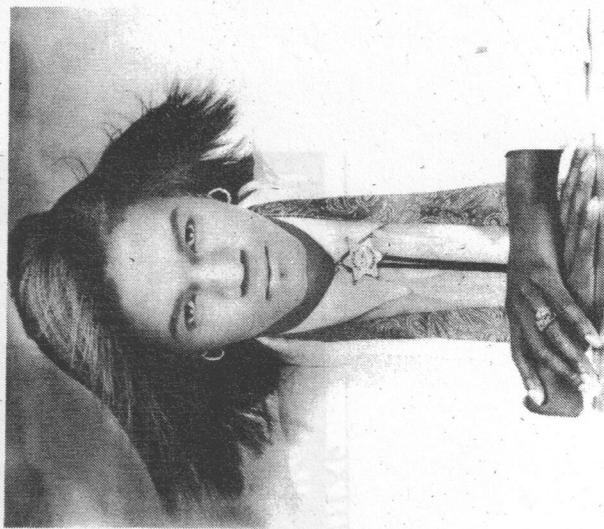
voice and the songwriting talent to do it.

The singles chart has been somewhat dull and boring in the last couple of months, but there are some excellent new releases that will brighten up the dreary winter days ahead. Leading the list is "So Cold The Night," the best song on the Communards L.P., which they have rerecorded and are releasing tomorrow. Not far behind though is Tina Turner's moody, soulful "Two People," the best track from her album, and also Jaki Graham's "Step Right Up," continuing her fine run of good sounds. Also worth a spin is Spandau Ballet's

"Through The Barricades," a ballad that marks a significant change in their musical direction.

L.P. CHART

1. Graceland (Paul Simon).
2. True Blue (Madonna).
3. Silk And Steel (5 Star).
4. Between Two Fires (Paul Young).
5. Liverpool (Frankie Goes To Hollywood).
6. Scoundrel Days (A-Ha).
7. The Chart (Various).
8. "Top Gun" Soundtrack (Various).
9. Whiplash Smile (Billy Idol).
10. Revenge (Eurythmics).



Jermaine Stewart

30/10/86

6/12/86

Bob Woodward