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Making 'Contact' with Edwin

disc-jockey's cubicle where everyone could see him.

It is easy to see why Edwin Starr is such a popular club performer. The enjoyment he obviously gets from his work was passed on to everyone around him.

His bright, extrovert personality also came across when I chatted with him earlier in the evening, and it was good to know we had something in common; we both agreed that "Stop Her On Sight" was our favourite Edwin Starr record! I asked him what he thought about the other versions of his worldwide smash "War" and he expressed a preference for Bruce Springsteen's "live" recording of the song.

I was interested to learn that he was born in Nashville, traditional home of country music (as opposed to soul), before moving to Cleveland and then Detroit where he cut his first record "Agent Double-O Soul" in the mid-sixties. That song was inspired by the James Bond character.

Edwin Starr now records for Peter Stringfellow's Hippodrome label and his latest release is "Soul Singer" backed with a 1986 remake of "Eye To Eye Contact" which is excellent. "It Ain't Fair" (from 1985) is still available, and I feel sure that one day this song will become a major chart hit.

The bookmakers have made Madonna's "Open Your Heart" their 7-4 favourite to be top of the singles charts on Christmas Day. This is another fine track from her "True Blue" album and it is released on Monday. Bruce Springsteen's "War" (mentioned earlier) is the second favourite, but this record hardly captures the spirit of Christmas any more than Sting's "Russians" did last year.

I would be more inclined to put my money on "Santa Claus Is On The Dole" by Spitting Image which the children will probably buy in great numbers. But the best new 45 this week is



Edwin Starr

"Nights Of Pleasure" by Loose Ends, plucked from their "Zagora" L.P. Also worth a spin is "Cry Wolf" by A-Ha, and "True Colours" by Go West. It is pleasing to see that the Human League's "Human" is top of the American charts this week.

L.P. CHART

- 1 Hits 5 (Various).
- 2 The Singles (Police).

- 3 The Whole Story (Kate Bush).
- 4 Live 1975-85 (Bruce Springsteen).
- 5 Now Dance 86 (Various).
- 6 Graceland (Paul Simon).
- 7 True Blue (Madonna).
- 8 "Top Gun" Soundtrack.
- 9 Silk And Steel (5 Star).
- 10 Slippery When Wet (Bon Jovi).