21/5/87

Record Review

After Level 42's "Running In The Family" my favourite album of the year so far is Mel and Kim's "F.L.M." which stands for Fun, Love and Money. It is produced by the Stock, Aitken and Waterman team (sounding like a firm of solicitors!) who are famous for their earlier work with Princess, Bananarama, Hazel Dean and Dead Or Alive.

In many ways this album can be classified as the 1987 version of Dead or Alive's "Youthquake" (from 1985) as it is packed full with irresistable Hi-NRG melodies. Critics will say the music is banal, bland, throwaway pop and I would agree that the LP will mean very little in ten years time, but the songs are a vital part of today's scene and no one should criticise a team who can compose and produce such catchy, danceable pop tunes.

This is, in fact, the perfect party record and there will be several more hit singles lifted from it. "Showing Out" has already been a Top Three smash last November and "Respectable" enjoyed a week at the top in March only to be dethroned by Ferry Aid which was also produced by Stock, Aitken and Waterman.

The fact that they were asked to produce Ferry Aid emphasises that they are one of Britain's leading production teams at the moment.

The best tracks are the first two on Side Two, namely "I'm The One Who Really Loves You" which will have you singing along in no time, and "More Than Words Can Say" which is the slowest song on the record although it cannot be described as a ballad. It is closer to a "slow-grooving" sound and is very much in the mould of black American music. Nearly as good as those two cuts is the title track "F.L.M." which has all the trademarks of another hit 45.

Mel and Kim who are Cockney sisters, both in their mid-twenties, used to be models before they found fame in the pop world. To get noticed they persisted in singing outside the offices of their record company and the staff inside liked what they heard and signed them up, so there is hope for all budding young singers!!

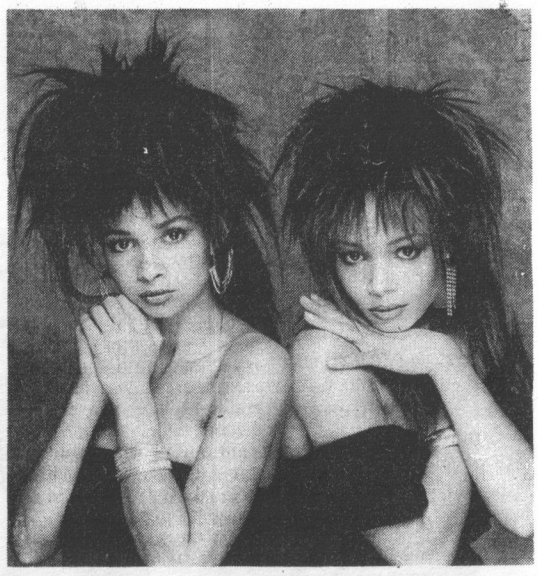
There is a treat in store for Country music fans in the shape of the budget-priced Music For Pleasure album "Tammy Cline Sings The Country Greats." Tammy comes from Hull and she has won the accolade of Top British Female Country Singer four times. The 12 songs on this record will be well known to most people as they have nearly all been big hits in the national pop charts as well as the Country listings. They include such titles as "Rose Garden," "Stand By Your Man" and "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue", and Tammy's vocal interpretations are a pleasure to listen to.

Johnny Logan won the 1987 Eurovision Song Contest for Ireland composing and singing "Hold Me Now" to become the first singer to win it twice. His previous victory came in 1980 with "What's Another Year" which topped the British charts. Logan had great stage presence as well as a good song and if only Britain could have chosen Tom Jones to sing "A Boy From Nowhere" we might have stood a chance instead of coming 13th, which was our worst-ever placing.

LP CHART
(with last week's placings in brackets)

1 (1) Keep Your Distance (Curiosity Killed The Cat)
2 (2) Solitude Standing (Suzanne Vega)
3 (3) Running In The Family (Level 42)
4 (4) The Joshua Tree (U2)
5 (8) Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac)
6 (7) Now 9 (Various)
7 (6) Invisible Touch (Genesis)
8 (5) Raindancing (Alison Moyet)
9 (9) F.L.M. (Mel and Kim)
10 (10) True Blue (Madonna)

Bob Woodhead



Mel and Kim