

# Leisure and Pleasure



15/1/87

## Record Review

Although the group Wham separated last year something good has already come from their demise. Their two girl backing-singers, Pepsi and Shirlie, have released their own disc called "Heartache" which I have chosen as my first record of the week for 1987.

The Wham influence is clearly evident in the powerful rhythm and melodic-hook. The single is accompanied by an exciting promotional video which shows off their exotic clothes and fashions.

Another former member of Wham is back on the scene this week; George Michael has teamed up with Aretha Franklin for a zippy duet entitled "I Knew You Were Waiting For Me." Swing Out Sister have released a soulful follow-up to their Top Five Hit "Breakout" entitled

"Surrender."

Meanwhile the current number one, "Reet Petite," by Jackie Wilson, is the oldest recording ever to reach the top, having been made in 1957 when it became his first chart hit. The 29 years that have elapsed since his debut in the chart and his first chart-topper are a record for any artist. Sadly he died in January, 1984, but his legacy includes the Sixties soul classics "Higher And Higher" and "I Get The Sweetest Feeling," which I hope the record company will re-release.

"Now 8" has been top of the L.P. chart throughout the festive season, making it six weeks at the summit so far, despite a strong challenge from Madonna's "True Blue," which was No. 2 in the final week of 1986 and hence overtook "Brothers In Arms" by

Dire Straits as the year's best seller in the list below.

However, the "Brothers In Arms" video was the top music-video of the year. L.P.s that have entered the Top Ten and disappeared in the four weeks that I have been reviewing the past year included the B.B.C.'s "Singing Detective" and "Now — the Christmas Album."

The best-selling single throughout Europe in 1986 was "Papa Don't Preach" by Madonna, and in America it was "That's What Friends Are For" by Dionne Warwick And Friends (according to Billboard) and "Stuck With You" by Huey Lewis (according to Radio And Records Magazine). But both sources agree that Whitney Houston's L.P. was the top seller.

In the black music category Janet Jackson was the

top artist and "On My Own" by Patti LaBelle and Michael McDonald was the top record. Top producer was Narada Michael Walden.

The top dance record in the U.S.A. was "Ain't Nothin' Goin' On But The Rent" by Gwen Guthrie, which came second in this country, held off by Cameo's "Word Up." Next week this column will be back to normal with the latest releases, but here are the more accurate B.B.C. lists of the year's best-sellers:

### L.P.s

- 1 True Blue (Madonna).
- 2 Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
- 3 Now 8 (Various).
- 4 Graceland (Paul Simon).
- 5 Whitney Houston.
- 6 Now 7 (Various).
- 7 Hunting High And Low (A-Ha).

8 A Kind Of Magic (Queen).

9 Silk And Steel (5 Star).

10 Revenge (Eurythmics).

### 45s

1 Don't Leave Me This Way (Communards).

2 Every Loser Wins (Nick Berry).

3 I Want To Wake Up With You (Boris Gardiner).

4 Living Doll (Cliff Richard And The Young Ones).

5 Chain Reaction (Diana Ross).

6 The Lady In Red (Chris De Burgh).

7 When The Going Gets Tough (Billy Ocean).

8 Papa Don't Preach (Madonna).

9 Take My Breath Away (Berlin).

10 So Macho (Sinitta).

(No. 11 in this list is Madonna's "True Blue," so she just missed having two in the Top Ten.)

## Bob Woodhead

