

## Record Review

by Bob Woodhead

The Pet Shop Boys have released a fabulous new album entitled "Actually." Among the ten tracks are the songs that deservedly took up residence at No. 1 for three weeks in July, "It's A Sin," and the recent No. 2 hit duet with Dusty Springfield "What Have I Done To Deserve This?"

While those two numbers are definitely the most striking there are several more potential hit singles embedded in this collection. The first of these is "Shopping," a delightful "tongue-in-cheek" criticism of stockbrokers making big profits after the "Big Bang," and the Government's sales of state-owned industries! It includes some wonderful synthesizer effects on the vocals. "Heart" has a charming, catchy melodic hook and "Hit Music" will

probably live up to its title as well. It has a rock 'n' roll bass line like the classic "Peter Gunn" by Duane Eddy, and the production technique is second to none.

Although they are less likely to be issued as singles "One More Chance," "Rent" and "I Want To Wake Up" all make superb listening as well. The former is so well produced that it is best enjoyed on CD using headphones, while the latter has another really good melody and strong lyrics. The rhythm on "Rent" is similar to "Shopping" but the song works perfectly.

The two slower tracks "It Couldn't Happen Here" and "King's Cross" are dreary tunes and they do not fit into the pattern of the Boys' music. Their musical style does not seem suited to ballads although "Violence" worked very well on the first album "Please." Thirty-three-year-old vocalist Neil Tennant and 31-year-old keyboard player Chris Lowe

were involved in the writing of all the songs.

If the U.S. "House" sound and Hip Hop if your kind of music the double-album "Music Madness" by Mandtronix is recommended. In my opinion the best recording the duo have ever made is "Scream" which really brims with exciting rhythms. It was therefore a treat to my ears to hear this three times on the package — firstly in its normal form, secondly its 12-inch "Primal Scream" format (which is easily the best) and also a "live" version. On the second album there are also the other "live" numbers and a bonus 12-inch version of "Who Is It?" which is another very powerful track.

Also worth a spin is the LP "Both Sides" by Two Nations, produced by Pete Wingfield. There are ten tracks composed by singer Allan Watson and keyboard player Dave Wright who was a member of The Beat from 1979 to 1983. The album displays this new group's musical versatility with a mix of soul,

pop, ska, gospel and reggae. Side One puts your feet firmly on the floor with uptempo numbers like their current 45 "Independence," a calypso/carnival celebration, and Side Two concentrates on the "slowies" like the haunting "Living In Two Nations" which charts the North and South divide, and "That's The Way It Feels," a simple, yet stunning love song.

### L.P. CHART

- 1 Bad (Michael Jackson).
- 2 Hits 6 (Various).

- 3 Hysteria (Def Leopard).

- 4 Substance (New Order).

- 5 Darklands (The Jesus And Mary Train).

- 6 Whitney (Whitney Houston).

- 7 Changing Faces (10cc and Godley and Creme).

- 8 The All-time Greatest Hits (Elvis Presley).

- 9 The Joshua Tree (U2).

- 10 Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby.

● Pet Shop Boys

ROCKSOUND