

8/10/87

## Record Review by Bob Woodhead

One of the brighter facets of the summer of 1987 has been the emergence of three new British groups who have each released a pair of excellent singles.

First there was Johnny Hates Jazz, whose debut album is eagerly awaited, then Wet Wet Wet and Black. The latter two have just issued their first long-players, but unfortunately neither of these fulfils the promise of those singles.

### Polished

Colin Vearncombe of Black had a hand in writing

all the tracks on the LP "Wonderful Life," but despite his polished vocal performance throughout, the tunes are disappointing apart from the hit title song and the exquisite, sultry ballad "Sweetest Smile" which reached the top ten in July, and stands out as one of the best discs of the year.

Glasgow four-piece band Wet Wet Wet delighted us with "Wishing I Was Lucky," a song with qualities similar to Quincy Jones's "Ai No Corrida," and they followed it with the equally rhythmic melodic "Sweet Little Mystery."

Both of these cuts appear on their LP "Popped In. Souled Out" which con-

tains nine tracks in all that were composed by the entire quartet. Like Colin Vearncombe, Marti Pellow's vocals are enjoyable throughout but the songs do little justice to his accomplished performance. Furthermore, the production is often overdone and his voice is drowned in a muddled, almost bothersome finish.

Wet Wet Wet will be appearing along the coast at Portsmouth Guildhall on October 18. Tonight (Thursday 8) it is the turn of the hit duo the Communards to appear at the same venue.

Fra Lippo Lippi's new LP "Light and Shade" is now in the shops. It starts with the catchy tune "Angel" which was recently on release as a 45. Their sound is similar to that of Lindisfarne in the early 1970s but sadly there is not enough variety on the other tracks to lift this album out of the "average" bracket.

There are two new

"Greatest Hits" compilations in the shops, and both are double-albums. Firstly there is "Odyssey's Greatest Hits" featuring their classic dance numbers like "Native New Yorker," "Going Back to My Roots" and the chart-topping "Use It Up Wear It Out." The second part of the package contains exclusive remixed versions of the hits.

Secondly there is "Exhibition" which includes Gary Numan's hits and most popular tracks recorded for the Beggars Banquet label between 1978 and 1983. These include "We Are Glass," "She's Got Claws," "Are Friends Electric?" and "Cars" which has been back in the charts again recently in a remixed form cheekily entitled "The E-Reg Model!"

### Pleasure

It is a real pleasure to see some of the most talented songwriters in the history of pop back on the scene, namely the Bee Gees with

"You Win Again." I shall be reviewing their comeback LP in due course.

The brand new Top 40 singles chart can now be heard for the first time on Radio One Stereo at tea time on Sundays, based on sales up to the previous night.

The chart used to come out on Tuesday, meaning that Sunday's Top 40 was based on sales that were eight days out of date!

### LP CHART

- 1 Bad (Michael Jackson)
- 2 Popped In Souled Out (Wet Wet Wet)
- 3 Wonderful Life (Black)
- 4 Dancing with Strangers (Chris Rea)
- 5 Actually (Pet Shop Boys)
- 6 The Cream of Eric Clapton
- 7 Now — Smash Hits (Various)
- 8 Always Guaranteed (Cliff Richard)
- 9 People Who Grinned Themselves to Death (Housemartins)
- 10 Best of 10cc and Godley and Creme



● Colin Vearncombe, of Black.

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