

Record Review

by Bob Woodhead

The four-piece band from Hull, the Housemartins, have released their second album entitled "The People Who Grinned Themselves To Death" featuring 12 songs composed by vocalist-guitarists Paul Heaton and Stan Cullimore.

This package has been one of the pleasant surprises of the year for, despite rumours that Housemartins music was on the decline, I found it more enjoyable than last year's "London O, Hull 4." Apart from three boring tracks at the end of Side One the album is full of jaunty, up-tempo songs like "Bow Down" and "You Better Be Doubtful," and poetic, tuneful ballads like "The Light Is Always Green," "Johannesburg" and "Build." Also included are the recent hit 45s "Me And The Farmer" and "Five Get Over Excited."

Following the demise of his group King, singer Paul King has been busy making a solo album, and the fruits of this work are now avail-

able in the form of "Joy". Although this is not the sort of record I would rush out to buy, it certainly provides pleasant, uncomplicated listening. The prime cuts are "Follow My Heart," "I Know" and "Pass On By," all on the first side. The latter is based around an infectious, punchy bassline, but "I Know" met with little success when it was available on the 45 format in the summer so I fear the album is unlikely to fare much better.

The bargain of the week has to be the LP "A Sample Of Blue Notes" which sells for just £2 and features some of the finest jazz since 1939, with 12 tracks from the likes of Art Blakey, Lou Donaldson, Dexter Gordon and Herbie Hancock.

Local duo the Fridge Brothers have recorded a new six-track tape entitled "Alternate Traumas." All the songs were composed by the two-some Derek Ray and Phil Roberts, from whom the tape can be obtained for £1.25 (including postage) at 1 Guildford Close, Southbourne. One of the tracks "Another Night" was recorded with their full "live" band Pan-

ama Red featuring Roger Yardley on drums and John Stevens on lead guitar. Phil Roberts is a fan of the U.S. West Coast sound of the mid-1960s by groups like the Byrds; and this certainly comes across on songs like "Cousin Kim." Overall this tape sounds less contemporary than last year's effort, apart from "Breathless" which is probably the best song here.

New from Stylus Music is an album called "The Hit Factory" featuring 14 Stock-Aitken-Waterman productions from artists like Hazell Dean, Sinitta and best of all Rick Astley singing "Never Gonna Give You Up." That great song was released at the end of July and by the end of August it had climbed to No. 1 where it stayed for five weeks, selling a million discs and becoming the top seller of 1987. My main memory of the song is hearing it continually pounding across the airwaves of local radio in the West Country while on holiday, because one of the DJ's was related to Rick! His new single "Whenever You Need Somebody" is now in the shops.

The video work of Level

42 will be featured on "The Chart Show" on Channel 4 tomorrow (Friday) evening. Boon Gould has followed his brother Phil in leaving the band but he will still assist with song-writing and recordings. The Bee Gees are the second oldest group to top the singles chart, behind the Detroit Spinners in 1980. Fleetwood Mac have climbed to the top of the LP Chart with "Tango In The Night," which was first released and reviewed in this column in the spring. Their "Rumours" LP has now spent 397 weeks in the chart, which is an all-time record.

LP CHART

- 1 Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac).
- 2 The Christians.
- 3 Nothing Like The Sun (Sting).
- 4 Bad (Michael Jackson).
- 5 E.S.P. (Bee Gees).
- 6 Tunnel of Love (Bruce Springsteen).
- 7 The Cream of Eric Clapton.
- 8 Actually (Pet Shop Boys).
- 9 Strangeways Here We Come (Smiths).
- 10 Dancing With Strangers (Chris Rea).



● The Housemartins, who have just released their second album.