

An enigma in a riddle

Record Review

Was (not Was), the group based around brothers David and Don Was, have released their third LP, and their first on the Phonogram label, entitled "What's Up, Dog?"

The group are an enigma wrapped in a riddle coated with mystery, but one commentator defined their sound as "dance music with a brain" and "the soundtrack of the urban apocalypse." This album has not enabled me to provide any clearer definition than those elegant pronouncements, and the record certainly contains some interesting and diverse funk sounds ranging from last year's Top Ten smash "Rock The Dinosaur" to the recent Top Twenty hit "Spy In The House Of Love" which is the best song. There are quieter, more mellow tunes like "Somewhere In America There's A Street Named After My Dad" and "Love Can Be Bad Luck," and fascinating vocal styles most notably on "Anytime Lisa." The vocals on this track sounded like those of Smokey Robinson. "What's Up, Dog?" is the sort of record that could never bore the listener even if he or she does not like the musical recipe on offer.

Feargal Sharkey's recipe on his new "Wish" LP will also appeal to many people. He serves up a versatile

mixture of musical styles, bonded together with the essential threat of his distinctive voice. The best of the uptempo numbers is "Strangest Girl In Paradise" with its hefty, driving backbeat, closely followed by the recent single "More Love" which should have achieved higher chart status than it did. The pick of the mid-tempo songs are the singalong "Out Of My System" and the catchy "Cold Cold Streets", and the slow tunes like "Safe To Touch" and "Please Don't Believe In Me" are enjoyable too.

I am sorry to report the death of the Bee Gees younger brother Andy Gibb at the tragically early age of 30. He will be remembered for being the first and so far only solo artist to reach No. 1 with each of his first three singles in America. His first five releases were all million sellers in the U.S.A., which is also a unique achievement.

My sincere thanks to Chris Ely of Williams Road in Bosham for sending me Billy Fury's deleted 1982 single "Love Or Money," after reading my review of Billy's greatest hits material on CD last month. Like me, Chris is a great admirer of Fury's music and has started work on a book which he hopes to complete, subject to the approval of Mrs. Wycherly (Billy's

widow).

He tells me that Decca are planning to issue a compact disc of early material later in 1988, and has also drawn my attention to the budget-priced double LP "Billy Fury - The Collection" on the Castle Communications label.

LP CHART

(Last week's placings in brackets)

- 1 (1) Now 11 (Various)
- 2 (2) Push (Bros)
- 3 (3) Best of OMD
- 4 (4) Popped In Souled Out (Wet Wet Wet)
- 5 (7) Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac)
- 6 (15) Dirty Dancing - Soundtrack
- 7 (20) Actually (Pet Shop Boys)
- 8 (8) Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby
- 9 (21) Hip Hop And Rapping In The House (Various)
- 10(14) Turn Back The Clock (Johnny Hates Jazz)

Bob Woodhead



Reduced from A3 → A4.