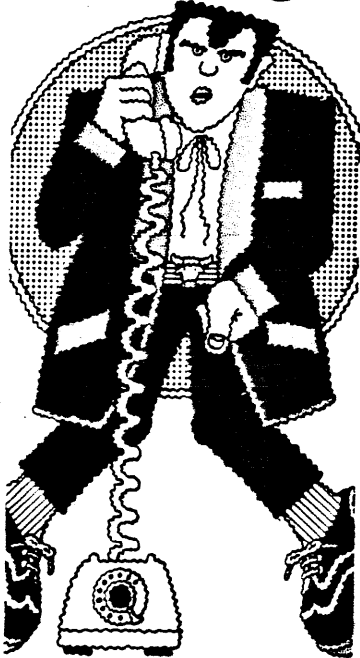


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Records this week include:—

- CANDY GIRL, New Edition
- TRUE, Spandau Ballet
- TEMPTATION, Heaven 17
- BAD BOYS, Wham!
- DANCING TIGHT, Galaxy
- EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE, Police

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Chart file

THE all-singing, all-dancing *Kids From Fame* added another glorious chapter to their British success story last week as their fourth top 20 album in 10 months, *Songs*, topped the 100,000 sales mark to earn the ensemble another gold disc.

At the same time the introductory *Kids From Fame* LP finally eased past 1,250,000 sales. With *Kids From Fame Again* (416,000) and *The Kids From Fame — Live!* (95,000) the troupe have accounted for 1.86 million album sales worth over £8,000,000 in less than a year.

It adds up to the most concentrated and successful launch of any act since the *Monkees*. Like the *Kids From Fame*, the *Monkees*’ first year of superstardom yielded four hit albums with total sales approaching two million. They too gained massively from weekly TV exposure. There, however, the comparisons must end. The *Monkees* were great favourites in the USA whilst the *Kids From Fame* have proved an expensive flop with American television viewers, causing the programme to be terminated at the end of the current series.

In Britain there’s still 15 episodes of *Fame* to be screened, but thereafter it seems most unlikely the *Fame* series of discs will maintain their popularity. Indeed, even as the TV series maintains its top 10 rating here, each successive *Fame* album has achieved a lower chart peak than



BLANCMANGE’S NEIL: a contribution to the Ancient Record Company Benevolent Fund

its predecessor. *The Kids From Fame*’ was number one for 12 weeks, *The Kids From Fame Again*’ peaked at number two, *The Kids From Fame — Live!*’ at number eight and *Songs*’ number 14. In Holland, where the series was first screened this January, all four *Fame* albums are in the top 50, the first time any act has placed more than three albums on the chart at the same time...

IN 1951 the London label was launched as a subsidiary of Decca. Within a few years it had acquired the UK rights to an extensive roster of top American acts to the chagrin of its competitors. *Slim Whitman* gave the label its first number one single in 1955. In the next 10 years London had few peers, notching a further 16 number ones. The last — the *Righteous*

Brothers’ *You’ve Lost That Feelin’* was perhaps the best. Shortly afterwards the fortune London and its Decca parent a nosedive. By the late seventies the company was heavily in and was sold to the Dutch-German giant Polygram. It seemed like an inglorious conclusion to the life of one Britain’s most successful record companies, but Polygram decided to allow it to continue functioning.

The London label had all but disappeared during Decca’s takeover but it was finally relaunched a couple of years with a single by *Funkapoluta*. Since then it has made steady progress, and with British signings like *Bananarama*, *Blancmange*, *First Light* and *Steve Harvey* and licensed American product from *Rock Revenge* and *Sylvester* it has once again established itself as a major label. Final confirmation of this fact comes with *New Edition*’s *Candy Girl*, London’s first number one for over 18 years. Like every one of London’s previous chart toppers, *New Edition* are an American act. However, none of the youngsters from Boston had even been born when their label last hit the top spot...

by Alan

DID YOU KNOW...?

DID YOU KNOW that *Sylvester* impersonated *Diana Ross* in the movie *The Rose* ...that *Eric Clapton* used to design stained glass windows?...that *Phil Collins* is being wooed to produce *Cliff Richard*’s next album?...that the longest any record has spent at number one anywhere in the world is 13 months? That’s the standard established by *’Dreamer Devane’* by brother and sister duo *Hassan* in India...that *’The Godfather Of Soul’ James Brown* has 30 cars? — that’s two more than *Roy Orbison* and five more than *Kenny Rogers*...that *’Ultravox* have now sold over 3½ million LPs worldwide?...that *Joan Rivers*, whose Geffen album *’What Becomes A Semi-Legend Most?’* is striding up the US top 30, is a 48-year-old comedienne?...

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