

THIS WEEK'S CHARTS

ANALYSED BY ALAN JONES

Simple Minds barely fight off the challenge from **Michael Jackson's** 'Leave Me Alone' to spend a second week at number one with their single 'Belfast Child'.

The seven inch version of the Simple Minds single contains the full six minutes and 39 seconds version of 'Belfast Child'. Only one number one single in chart history has been longer – 'Hey Jude', a 1968 chart topper for the **Beatles**.

The Simple Minds single has sold 200,000 copies, but is already in steep decline, so 'Leave Me Alone' must be favourite for the number one berth next week.

● In the grand tradition of husband and teams like **Nina & Frederick**, **Esther & Abi Ofarim** and the other **Captain & Tennile**, **Cecil & Linda Womack** are making music together in both their personal and professional lives. Their latest success 'Celebrate The World', which climbs to number 33 this week, is Womack & Womack's sixth hit. They are now within striking distance of the most successful husband and wife duo in chart history, that of **Mr and Mrs Bono – Sonny & Cher** – who had a run of nine hits between 1965 and 1972.

Other husband and wife teams have worked together on more hits, but *not* as duos: **Paul and Linda McCartney** had numerous hits as part of **Wings**, whilst **Abba**, who had 25 chart singles, consisted of two couples who were married and divorced at various stages of their illustrious chart career.

Incidentally, I did Abba an injustice recently, when I suggested that prior to **J Orbison**, the most recent example of an act with two albums in the top three at the same time was **Mike Oldfield** in 1974.

On 15 January 1977, Abba were

number one with 'Arrival' and number two with 'Greatest Hits'. In self-defence, all I can say is that in those days album charts reflected sales from long before the publication date (15 January 1977 chart covered sales for 18-24 December!) and this combined with Xmas deadlines, meant that the chart in question did not appear in Record Mirror, and was therefore overlooked. It did, however, appear in the 22 January 1977 edition of Music Week. The full chart for 15 January 1977 appears this week as our Vintage Chart on page 40.

● **Michael Ball's** debut hit, 'Love Changes Everything', dips a notch to number three this week, having failed at the last hurdle to become the first number one single penned by **Andrew Lloyd Webber** in more than 12 years.

The song, which comes from the forthcoming (12 April) West End production of 'Aspects Of Love' is the 14th single written by Lloyd Webber to chart since he first tasted success in 1972.

The full list of successes is as follows:

● 'Superstar' – **Murray Head** / 'I Don't Know How To Love Him' – **Yvonne Elliman** (number 47, 1972) ● 'Don't Cry For Me, Argentina' – **Julie Covington** (number one, 1976) ● 'Another Suitcase In Another Hall' – **Barbara Dickson** (number 18, 1977) ● 'Oh, What A Circus' – **David Essex** (number three, 1978) ● 'Don't Cry For Me, Argentina' – **Shadows** (number five, 1978) ● 'Take That Look Off Your Face' – **Marti Webb** (number three, 1980) ● 'Memory' – **Elaine Paige** (number six, 1981) ● 'Memory' – **Barbra Streisand** (number 34, 1982) ● 'Pie Jesu' – **Sarah Brightman and Paul Miles Kingston** (number three, 1985) ● 'Memory' – **Aled Jones** (number 42, 1985) ● 'The Phantom Of



● **PAUL McCARTNEY** manages to shake off Linda, briefly

The Opera' – **Sarah Brightman and Steve Harley** (number seven, 1986)

● 'All I Ask Of You' – **Sarah Brightman and Cliff Richard** (number three, 1986) ● 'Music Of The Night' – **Michael Crawford** (number seven, 1987) ● 'Love Changes Everything' – **Michael Ball** (number three, 1989).

Lyricists used by Lloyd Webber to write the words to accompany his melodies are **Trevor Nunn**, **Charles Hart**, **Richard Stilgoe**, **Don Black**, **Mike Batt** and, first and foremost, **Tim Rice**. Lloyd Webber and Rice penned 'Superstar', 'I Don't Know How To Love Him', 'Don't Cry For Me, Argentina', 'Oh, What A Circus' and 'Another Suitcase In Another Hall'.

Lloyd Webber's most recorded work is 'Memory', of which his Really Useful Group company has logged over 600 versions since it was first published in 1981 – an astonishing total.

Finally, it should be said that Lloyd Webber has achieved his credit as songwriter despite the fact that he is lifted from longer, more colorful pieces which make more sense in context in which they were written, as part of musicals.

● American heavy metal band **Van Halen** explode onto the chart at number one with 'Mean Man' which instantly becomes their biggest hit to date, having had five previous chart entries, starting with 'Wild Child' (number 71, 1978), 'Nasty' (number 70, 1986), 'Scream Like Hell' (number 32, 1987), 'Need No Doctor' (number 31, 1987), 'Animal (F*** Like A Beast)', which reached number 61 in a live version in 1981. Like 'Animal', 'Mean Man' contains some foul language, and is likely to receive similarly scant attention from radio programmers.

● TWELVE INCH

TW LW

1	1	BELFAST CHILD Simple Minds	Virgin
2	3	HEY MUSIC LOVER S'Xpress	Rhythm King
3	7	TURN UP THE BASS Tyree Featuring Kool Rock Steady	London
4	5	STOP Sam Brown	A&M
5	2	MY PREROGATIVE Bobby Brown	MCA
6	4	LEAVE ME ALONE Michael Jackson	Epic
7	22	WILD THING/LOC'ED AFTER DARK Tone Loc	Delicious/Fourth & Broadway
8	6	THAT'S THE WAY LOVE IS Ten City	Atlantic
9	—	STRAIGHT UP Paula Abdul	Siren
10	11	EVERYTHING COUNTS (LIVE) Depeche Mode	Mute
11	14	HELP Bananarama/Lananeeneenoonoo	London
12	12	I DON'T WANT A LOVER Texas	Mercury
13	18	LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING Michael Ball	Really Useful
14	15	CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM YOU Gloria Estefan with Miami Sound Machine	Epic
15	—	WAGES DAY Deacon Blue	CBS
16	—	MEAN MAN WASP	Capitol
17	9	WAIT Robert Howard & Kym Mazelle	RCA
18	29	BLOW THE HOUSE DOWN Living In A Box	Chrysalis
19	16	ROCKET Def Leppard	Mercury
20	10	LOVE TRAIN Holly Johnson	MCA

● COMPACT DISC

TW LW

1	1	A NEW FLAME Simply Red	Epic
2	4	ANYTHING FOR YOU Gloria Estefan with Miami Sound Machine	World Circuit
3	5	ANCIENT HEART Tanita Tikaram	Mercury
4	3	THE MARQUEE — 30 LEGENDARY YEARS Various	London S
5	—	THE BIG AREA Then Jerico	London S
6	2	THE RAW AND THE COOKED Fine Young Cannibals	Bl
7	10	SPIKE Elvis Costello	Warner Br
8	8	BRITS '89 — THE AWARDS Various	Mercury
9	6	MYSTERY GIRL Roy Orbison	Telstar
10	7	LIVING YEARS Mike And The Mechanics	Mercury
11	17	WANTED Yaz	Mercury
12	20	HYSTERIA Def Leppard	Bludgeon I
13	9	GREATEST HITS Fleetwood Mac	Warner Br
14	12	WATERMARK Enya	Mercury
15	11	BUSTER Original Soundtrack	Mercury
16	—	REMOTE Hue And Cry	Circa CI
17	16	THE INNOCENTS Erasure	Mercury
18	—	BAD Michael Jackson	Epic 45
19	18	NEW LIGHT THROUGH OLD WINDOWS Chris Rea	Mercury
20	13	THE LEGENDARY ROY ORBISON Roy Orbison	T

Compiled by Gallup