

● Mr Blobby bounces to number one ● Meat Loaf retains album crown

CHART FOCUS

If he goes on to have another dozen number ones, Meat Loaf is unlikely to be replaced at the top of the singles chart again by anyone with a bigger waist measurement than himself. But that's what happens this week as Mr Blobby races to the top of the chart with his debut single.

The pink creature with yellow blotches is the first non-human to have a number one since the cartoon Simpsons topped with Do The Bartman in 1991. And, while Meat Loaf's I'd Do Anything For Love is the longest track ever to reach number one, the Mr Blobby CD is the shortest in the chart with the four versions of the track adding up to a playing time of less than nine minutes. The main version is respectably long at just over three and a half minutes - a major advance on the 21 second piece of Carlin library music from which it has evolved in the past four years. For the full story of that, however, you'll have to consult the new edition of Songplucker.

While Blobby rules the singles chart, Meat Loaf continues to dominate the album listings, with Bat Out Of Hell II - Back Into Hell remaining at the summit for a ninth week. Its sales increase for the third consecutive week, and there's now little doubt it will top a million sales before Christmas.

With all of the year's big albums already out, the chart takes on a conservative and sluggish look this



It's a marvellous week in a perfect year for Dina Carroll. While her debut album *So Close* passes 600,000 sales to earn a double platinum award, her silver single *Don't Be A Stranger* loiters for a seventh week in the Top 10 and her new single *The Perfect Year* makes an impressive debut at number 14. Meanwhile, the single's B-side, *Here*, continues to top the club chart. *So Close* is the fifth biggest selling album of 1993, and easily the biggest selling debut of the year handsomely beating the runner-up, the Spin Doctors' *Pocket Full Of Kryptonite*.

week. Of the albums which do make an introductory appearance, femme soul/jill swingers *Eternal* make the highest entry, at number 33 with *Always & Forever*,

narrowly out-pacing the rather more controversial rapper *Snoop Doggy Dogg*, whose Doggystyle debuts at number 38. Snoop's tail is wagging even more vigorously in America, where the album had pre-release orders of more than two million, and debuts at number one this week becoming the very first debut album in US album chart history to make its introductory appearance at number one.

Back in the singles chart, and a notable debutant is *Regina Belle* and *Peabo Bryson's* *A Whole New World*. The song, which is the theme to Disney's cartoon *Aladdin*, won its spurs in America by becoming the record that last winter finally dethroned Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You*. An even longer gestation - 12 years - is over, as *Prince's* 1931 album title track *Controversy* debuts at number five. Extracted from his *The Hits 2* album, it is his biggest hit here since *Sexy MF*. In America, where *Nothing Compares 2 U* has been preferred as a single, *Controversy* failed to take off first time around, peaking at number 70.

The bell tolls again for the *Bee Gees* this week as their latest hit, *For Whom The Bell Tolls*, climbs to number six. Never write off the Gibb brothers - with *Cliff Richard* they share the distinction of being the only act to have number one hits in the 60s, 70s and 80s and they already have a couple of Top 10 hits under their collective belts in the 90s, thanks to the current hit and 1991's number five hit *Secret Love*.

Alan Jones.

SALES AWARDS

- **Platinum:** *Meat Loaf: Bat Out Of Hell - Back To Hell* (x4); *Mariah Carey: Music Box*.
- **Gold:** *Freddie Mercury: Living On My Own*; *Bryan Adams: Please Forgive Me*; *Eurythmics: Live 1983-1989*; *Doris Day: Greatest Hits*; *Soul II Soul: Volume IV - Classic Singles 88-93*; *Rolling Stones: Jump Back*; *Michael Bolton: The One Thing*; *Various: 100% Dance Vol 3*; *Various: Full On Dance 93*.
- **Silver:** *House Of Pain: House Of Pain*; *The Christians: Best Of The Christians*; *Neil Diamond: Up On The Roof*; *Tom Petty: Greatest Hits*; *Hank Marvin: Heartbeat*; *Cypress Hill: Black Sunday*.

AIRPLAY ADDS

RADIO 1 FM: w/c 06.12.93: A List: Pearl Jam - Daughter. B List: Cypress Hill - I Ain't Going Out Like That; K7 - Come Baby Come; Fall - Behind The Counter; KD Lang - Just Keep Me Moving. C List: Peabo Bryson & Regina Belle - A Whole New World; DRS - Gangsta Lean; Morphine - Buena, Ignorants - Phat Girls; Dark City Sisters & Flying Jaz Queens - Langa More; Gigolo Aunts - Where I Find My Heaven; Suns N' Roses - New Rose.

Capital FM: w/c 30.11.93: A List: Bryan Adams/Rod Stewart/Sing - All For Love; Phil Collins - We Wait And Wonder; Elton John & KD Lang - Tearsdrop; KD Lang - Just Keep Me Moving. B List: David Bowie - Buddha Of Suburbia.

Virgin 1215: w/c 04.12.93: A List: INXS - Kate Kare. B List: Aerosmith - Amazing; Kate Bush - Top Of The City; UB40 - Bring Me Your Cup. C List: Chris Rea - Espresso Logic; John Hiatt - Permanent Fruit. D List: Cry Of Love - Hand Me Down; Nirvana - All Apologies; Teenage Fanclub - Escher.

MTV Europe: w/c 07.12.93: Lenny Kravitz - Is There Any Love In Your Heart; Stakka Bo - Down The Drain; Lena Fiagbe - Gotta Get It Right; Bingo Boys - Ten More Minutes; Take That - Babe; Crowded House - Nails In My Feet; Red Hot Chili Peppers - Soul To Squeeze; Urban Cookie Collective - Feels Like Heaven; UB40 - Bring Me Your Cup.

The Box: w/c 03.12.93: Aerosmith - Amazing; Bad Boys Inc: Walking On Air; Bee Gees - For Whom The Bell Tolls; Belinda Carlisle - Lay Down Your Arms; Bryan Adams/Rod Stewart/Sing - All For Love; Dina Carroll - The Perfect Year; Doobie Brothers - Long Train Runnin'; Duff McKagan - Believe In Me; Gabrielle - I Wish; Go West - We Close Our Eyes '93; INXS/Ray Charles - Please You Got That; Jodeci - Cry For You; Jordy - It's Christmas; Justin Warfield - Fisherman's Grotto; Nu Colors - The Power; R.E.M. - Find The River; Regina Belle & Peabo Bryson - Whole New World; Stakka Bo - Down The Drain; Take That - Babe; Tears For Fears - Goodnight Song; Tevin Campbell - Can We Talk; U2 - Stay [Far Away - So Close].

SALES UPDATE

- SINGLES**
- ▲ +12% versus last week
 - ▲ +0.3% Year to date versus last year
- ALBUMS**
- ▲ +23% versus last week
 - ▲ +7.3% Year to date versus last year
- MUSIC VIDEO**
- ▲ +25% versus last week
 - ▲ -3.3% Year to date versus last year

NEXT WEEK'S HITS

Singles: *Aerosmith: Amazing* (Geffen); *Chaka Demus & Pliers feat. Taxi Gang: Twist & Shout* (Mango); *Cille Black & Barry Manilow: You'll Never Walk Alone* (Columbia); *Haddaway: I Miss You* (Arista); *Whitney Houston: I Will Always Love You* (Arista); *Michael Jackson: Gone Too Soon* (Epic); *Brian May: Last Horizon* (Parlophone); *Meat Loaf: Bat Out Of Hell* (Epic); *Nirvana: All Apologies* (Geffen); *Cliff Richard: Healing Love* (EMI); *Take That: Babe* (RCA). **Albums:** *Ice Cube: Lethal Injection* (4th & B'way); *K-E-Less: Universal* (Parlophone); *Spin Doctors: Homebelly Groove* (Epic). **Predictions compiled by Era. Last week's score: 15 out of 15.**

NEWCOMERS

17 BLIND MELON: No Rain (Capitol) US 2nd hit. **Producer:** Rick Parashar. **Publisher:** EMI. **Writer:** Blind Melon. **Line-up:** Shannon Hoon (V), Brad Smith (B), Roger Stevens (G), Glen Graham (D), Chris Thorn (G). **Last hit:** *Tones Of Home* (62, 1993). **Notes:** Formed in Los Angeles in 1989, the band have enjoyed staggering success in America where their album has now sold over one million copies. Blind Melon have been touring for over a year in the US and have just finished supporting Lenny Kravitz on his British tour. **Album:** *Blind Melon*.

31 PEABO BRYSON & REGINA BELLE: A Whole New World (Columbia). US debut (both acts have had solo hits). **Producer:** Walter Afanasieff. **Publisher:** Campbell Connelly. **Writer:** Rice/Menken. **Notes:** A US number one and winner of an Oscar for Best Original Song at the 64th annual Academy Awards. Composed for Walt Disney's *Aladdin* which is now the most successful animated movie ever - taking more than \$220m. **Album:** *Aladdin OST*, *Passion* (Regina Belle), *The Greatest Hits of Walt Disney*.

37 FUNKDOOBIEST: Wopbabalubop (Epic). US debut. **Producer:** T-Ray. **Publisher:** BMG/Copyright Control. **Writer:** Ray/Vasquez/Freeze/Bone.



Line-up: Sondoobie (V), DJ Ralph M (V), Tomahawk Funk (V). **Notes:** This LA-based rap trio make up the third extension of the hugely successful Soul Assassins posse with Cypress Hill and House Of Pain. They made their debut on record with a guest appearance on the House Of Pain track *House Of The Rising Sun*. **Album:** *Which Doobie U B?*

45 FKW: Seize The Day (PWL International) UK 2nd hit. **Producer:** Tony King/Pete Waterman. **Publisher:** All Boys. **Writer:** Jingell/King/Waterman.

Line-up: Steve Lee (V), Blane Scanlon (D), Tim Humphries (D). **Last hit:** *Never Gonna Give You Up* (48, 1993). **Notes:** FKW are London-based and have been together for a year. They play a UK tour throughout the festive season. **Album:** next year.

56 JODECI: Cry For You (MCA) US 2nd hit. **Producer:** Devante Swing. **Publisher:** EMI. **Writer:** Devante Swing. **Line-up:** Jojo, K-Ci, Dalvin, Devante Swing. **Last hit:** *Cherish* (56, 1993). **Notes:** Jojo and K-Ci are from North Carolina and Dalvin and Devante Swing are from Virginia and all have gospel backgrounds. Their debut album, *Forever My Lady*, went double platinum in the US, won them a Soul Train Award and also gave them four hit singles. They plan to incorporate more street and hip hop styles into their music in the future but for now are happiest performing on stage. **Album:** *Forever My Lady*.

85 ADEVA: Respect (Cooltempo) US 12th hit. **Producer:** Mental Instrum. **Publisher:** Warner Chappell. **Writer:** Redding. **First/biggest hit:** *Respect* (17, 1989). **Last hit:** *Until You Come Back To Me* (45, 1992). **Notes:** This is a remix of the New Jersey house diva's biggest hit - an interpretation of the Sixties R'n'B standard by the New York remix team Mental Instrum. There are six mixes of the track on the CD. **Album:** none planned.

I MISS YOU
his latest smash
CD and 12" include a
Haddaway Megamix of all the hits
AS SEEN ON SMASH HITS
POLL WINNERS PARTY

