

## THE HOUSE OF LOVE: Never

(Fontana)

**Small plugs** in the big bathtub of life are the gurgles of Brit (indie) pop. Six weeks spent in a foreign country takes the fluff out of the contemplative navel of the 'underground' British music scene. Nobody abroad could give a broken chopstick about the likes of The Primitives, Wonder Stuff or Pop Will Eat Itself.

That's the problem facing The House Of Love as they unwrap their first single for a major label. And 'Never', while hardly destroying the heart, is promising. Of the guitar school this week it's undoubtedly top of the class. Surging and spangling rather than jangling, and allied to an uncharacteristically celebratory lyric instead of the often Bleak House visions Guy Chadwick specialises in, it shows the band bordering on a cinemascope Big Pop sound.

The flip, 'Soft As Fire', by contrast is in outlook and as bleached as a Californian blonde, almost '60s retro. The 12", incidentally, contains an extra cut, 'Safe', the lost Creation single produced by Daniel Miller.