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Hot fun in the summertime

The Doctor and Nurse Consuelo paw through the record bins and come up with some hits

BY DR. TANTALUS

It was about three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon when Nurse Consuelo and I finally got to the record bins. Discreetly disguised in loud Hawaiian print shirts, cats-eye sunglasses and broad-brimmed straw hats, we sipped gin and tonics out of plastic cups with straws because it was 90 degrees in the shade.

Music

Of course, Consuelo, ever mindful of her civic duty, had on her white hose just the same.

We pawed through albums, discs and tapes for hours; we asked store clerks which band had Vladimir Horowitz on lead guitar (I think the answer was Depeche Mode) and then retreated back to the office to complete some minor surgery on Mrs. Gronsky.

We cannot guarantee that the results of our outing represent a true sample of summer songs, especially since some were released last year, but we are glad to share the fruits of our safari with you just the same.

Shriekback: *Go Bang!* (Island)

A terrific late-night summer recording, definitely suitable for sipping gin and thinking forbidden thoughts. Lead vocalist Barry Andrews has a bottom-of-the-register voice that lends a certain sexual innuendo to almost everything he performs, while the Partridge family, Wendy and Sarah, fill in the upper vocal ranges. Consuelo was prepared to hate this album because it sounds so much like other Shriekback and because it clocks in at only 32:11, quite a surprise after paying a premium price for the disc. Two weeks of continual playing have convinced her otherwise. Besides, there's not one bad song here. *Score:* 8 (1 point deducted for playing time)

Prince: *Lovesexy* (Paisley Park)

Forget the album cover (Prince posing as a very large stamen while perched in an iris) and move to the inside, where once again you will find a terrific band with Sheila E. on drums, a confused libido, some dirty lyrics and some inventive funk. Anyone this prolific and capable of producing such a varied musical diet is always worth a listen. Not his best, but better than most. *Score:* 8.5

The Cure: *Kiss Me Kiss Me Kiss Me*

As double record sets go, you can expect to find some dross among the gold. No doubt that caused the previous owner of this record to provide us with the opportunity to buy it at a discount. The dance songs, "Just like Heaven" and "Hot hot hot!!!" are in many ways not

representative of the remaining songs. And let's face it, vocalist Robert Smith frequently sounds like someone is pulling out his toenails a quarter inch at a time. Yet the music is compelling and the stream-of-consciousness lyrics suggestive. *Score:* 9

Talking Heads: *Naked* (Fly/Sire)

For aficionados only, *Naked* finds the Heads at a turning point that may lead on to bigger and better things. It's not that it's bad, it's just that Consuelo plays it to drown out noise whenever there's an unruly child in the office. *Score:* 7

Bruce Cockburn: *Waiting for a Miracle* (Gold Castle)

The definitive album for those who don't have any Bruce Cockburn records. Represented here are singles from 1970 through 1987, including the favorite I'll-get-even tribute to American involvement in Nicaragua, "If I Had a Rocket Launcher." *Score:* 9

Sisters of Mercy: *Floodland* (Elektra)

While sipping our gin, *Floodland* was playing in the background, so you might say we were under the influence when this record was purchased. We could not understand why the lyrics seemed so mystical until we read the liner notes and found them to be simply unintelligible. So much for the power of alcohol. But the music more than makes up for the misguided lyrics, so if you don't listen too closely it almost sounds meaningful. The music is mostly pomp and circumstance and likely to be bloated by the time of the next album, so you better jump on board before this ship sinks. *Score:* music 8.5; lyrics 2.0

INXS: *Kick*

Even casual radio contact would probably have resulted in your hearing at least one song from this record, since several ("Devil Inside," "New Sensation," "Mediate") made the charts. *Kick* demonstrates how professional INXS has become — there is nary a misstep in the 12 songs. Its only fault is also its virtue, since the very smoothness that propels INXS detracts from its emotional impact. The lyrics also fail to make much of an impact, but as the Good Nurse says, "That's not the point." Indeed. *Score:* 8.5

After this splurge we felt better, but poorer. Perhaps that's why Mrs. Gronsky's surgery was more expensive than originally planned. She looks better, however, with her new pair of bobbed ears. And Consuelo? She's ready to go back to the store again, but says we'll be drinking beer and buying women's music. So it looks like the Doctor will have at least one date this month.

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