

From the racks — Dak's tracks

by Dak Jiordani

The profits in the music biz always climb during the Christmas season, mainly because albums, CD's and cassettes are respectable gifts, and fairly cheap ones at that. Here's a rundown (with ratings from one to ten) on a few tapes I received over the holidays:

Level 42 — *Staring at the Sun* — Polygram

Although the breakup rumours proved untrue, Level 42 bassist Mark King and keyboardist Mike Lindup have replaced brothers Phil and Boon Gould with drummer Gary Husband and guitarist Alan Murphy. Unfortunately, even having ex-member Boon sharing writing credits on several songs with Mark still wasn't enough for the band to repeat the quality that was featured on their *World Machine* LP. This album is not a disaster but it is far from a masterpiece. Aside from the title track and the first single "Heaven In My Hands", the bulk of the songs are of average quality. Simply put, if you are a Level 42 fan, you should enjoy the album. If not, well, it makes for good background music at a Tupperware

party. Rating: 6

Chris De Burgh — *Flying Colours* — A&M

After the mega-success of his last album *Into the Light*, you might figure that Chris was on a roll. After all, he has been more or less improving at a constant rate since his first LP *Spanish Train*. With the release of *Flying Colours* Chris has set a new



Level 42: New Music for Tupperware Parties

standard in Pop Vocal Elevator Music (sure to be a new category at the Grammy and Juno awards). This album has abso-

lutely nothing controversial, exciting or even erotically romantic. Obviously geared for maximum AM radio play, the record wouldn't offend anyone even if it were cranked to 90 decibels. Most of the tracks could be successful singles if properly marketed, but compared to *Crusader* or *Eastern Wind*, this is an artistic dud. Sorry, Chris, but I think a family has mellowed you too much. Rating: 5.

Pink Floyd — *Delicate Sound of Thunder* — CBS

While not the greatest live album I have ever heard, it is certainly one of the best. The sound quality is excellent, the presentation is top notch and the music selection represents Pink Floyd at its best. Even though Roger Waters is no longer with the band, his presence is felt but not to excess. I have to admit that Roger wrote and sung most of Floyd's best tunes, but he was not the only songwriter in the group. David Gilmour is no slouch in either department and he carries on the Floydian tradition of quality quite admirably. Exceptionally good performances include "On The Turning Away", "Us & Them", "Money", "Comfortably Numb", and "Run Like Hell". As this album should be a fantastic success, a video of the concert tour is no doubt looming in the future. Beware, Floyd fans, your wallet could be drained of megabucks if the video is as good as the album. Rating: 9

Kylie Minogue — *Kylie* — WEA

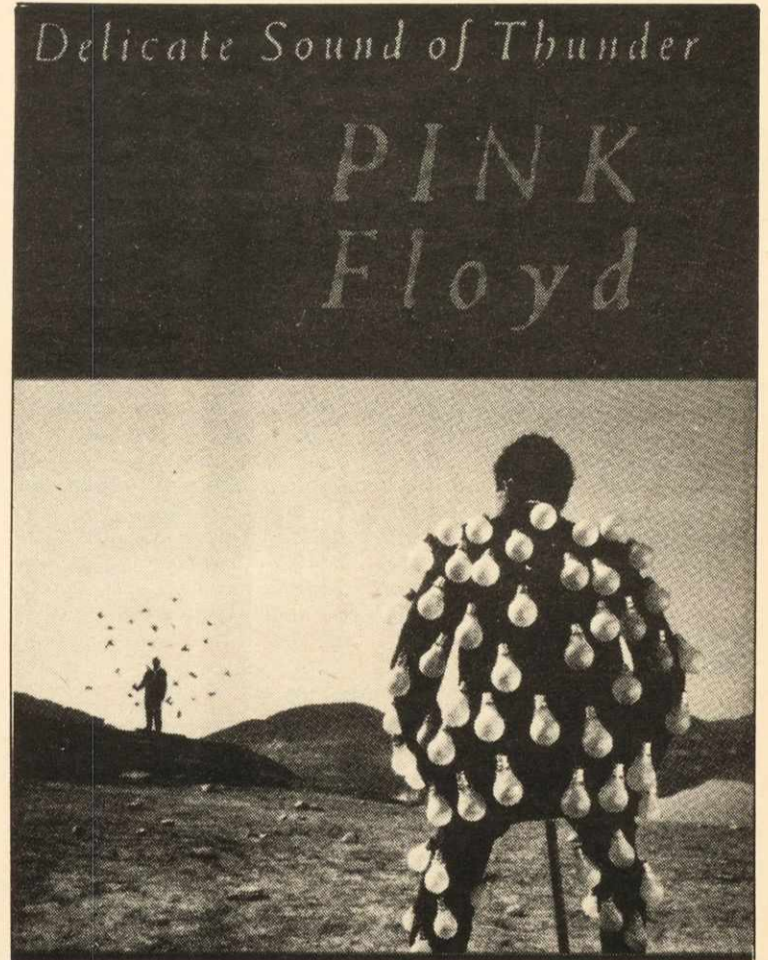
Dance music. Nouveau disco. Computer tunes. Whatever ya wanna call it, still boils down to snap, crackle, pop breakfast cereal music: it's light and snappy, it goes down easy and is just as easily forgotten. However, like breakfast cereal, disposable music of the beatbox type does have value, little though it may be. It's great for dancing, aerobics & AM radio play.

Other than the number one singles, which are played every 30 minutes for at least three or four weeks, most sequenced dance music can be ignored after just

one listen. However, 20 year old Kylie has at least made an effort on her first album to generate some curiosity. The effort must have been enough because one spin should be sufficient to reveal

Dire Straits — *Money For Nothing* — Polygram

A not-too-bad greatest hits package that should have included "Industrial Disease". Collected from six albums, this supposedly



Pink Floyd: Sorry, no cover versions of "You Light Up My Life" on this album.

that aside from the smash remake "Loco-motion", "I Should Be So Lucky" and "Got To Be Certain" are both heavy duty singles, but hits do not an album make, nor iron bars a cage. Oh well, to be fair I should say that she has a dynamic voice and that musical integrity simply is not one of her strong suits. Big deal. The same can be said about most any pop/rock performer. Buy the album if you need to lose weight or you moonlight at a disco. Rating: 4.5

Tiffany — *Hold an Old Friend's Hand* — MCA

See above. Rating: 4

Bon Jovi — *New Jersey* — Polygram

Heavy pop/metal version of above. Rating: 3

is Dire Straits at its best, which suits me fine since I don't own any of their previous albums. Other than that, what can I say? Rating: ? (what can you give a strait compilation?)

There you have it. Dak's Tracks for the Post-Christmas Racks. For comparison, here are a few other albums that I hold in high regard: **Pink Floyd — *The Wall* — 10; Soundtrack — *Heavy Metal* — 10; Soundtrack — *Star Wars* — 10; Fleetwood Mac — *Rumours* — 9; Pink Floyd — *The Final Cut* — 9.5; Heart — *Dreamboat Annie* — 9; Meatloaf — *Bat Out Of Hell* — 9; Spoons — *Arias & Symphonies* — 8.5; The Alan Parsons Project — *I, Robot* — 8.5; and Supertramp — *Paris* — 9.**

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