

Entertainment Outlook

New LPs offer thoughts and politics

ROCK ON



ETHLIE ANN VARE

Well, Greenland's top Inuit-language recording artist, Ole Kristiansen, has gone Sealskin (they don't do Gold and Platinum above the Arctic Circle) with his new album, "Isimilit Ikkamat."

Will these new American LPs come close to that success?

• The Blue Nile, "Hats" (A&M)

This disc has been a fave on alternative radio for some months now and a huge seller in the import bins. Finally, the Glasgow trio — Paul Buchanan, Robert Bell and Paul Joseph Moore — has released the album domestically.

The Blue Nile made critical waves with its 1985 debut, "Walk Across the Rooftops," and then disappeared for half a decade. Now they return with their gentle, thoughtful songs.

You can't dance to it, but it moves you all the same. Highly recommended for fans of Tom Waits, Peter Gabriel and "Love Over Gold"-era Dire Straits.

• Raindogs, "Lost Souls" (Atco)

Another Scotsman, Johnny Cunningham — from Edinburgh, this time — goes pop for the Raindogs, an international combo based in Boston.

Raindogs' rhythm section comes from two earlier, highly underrated bands: New Orleans' Red Rockers (Darren Hill, bass) and Ireland's Stiff Little Fingers (Jim Reilly, drums). Add to that a dollop of pure Celtic fiddle and some New England straight-ahead rock, and you end up with... well, actually you end up with a band that sounds a lot like the Rolling Stones with violin.

Never mind the mediocre lead single, "I'm Not Scared." Give a listen to the passionate "Cry for Mercy," the tender "Under the Rainbow" or the vibrant "Too Many Stars." This is a debut (both for the band and for the recently revived label) with real potential.

• Kris Kristofferson, "Third World Warrior" (PolyGram)

The good news is that singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson has taken a break from acting in films and come back to the music world. The bad news is he came back as Phil Ochs.



Kris Kristofferson

Kristofferson should have read enough screenplays by now to know you're not supposed to write "on the nose." In other words, leave something open to interpretation. Let people unfold your meaning. Don't hit them over the head with it.

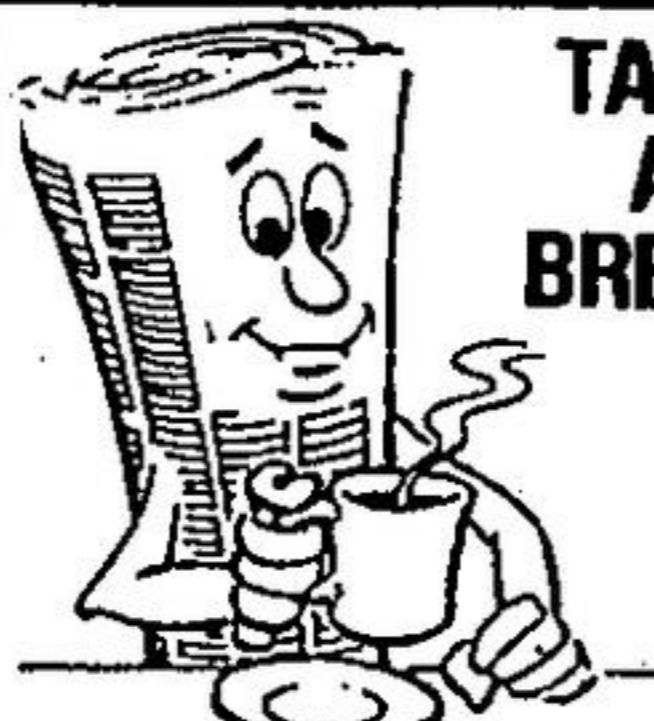
Unabashedly political, "Third World Warrior" makes the mistake of being far too black and white in its lyrics — white is bad; black (or brown, or yellow) is good. Aside from the fact that these literal-minded polemics detract from the music and preach to the converted, they also definitely date the record. Kristofferson is already stuck with the line "Until the day we free Mandela/ All the world will be in chains."

• Simon & Garfunkel, "Collected Works" (Columbia)

No point in critiquing the music; you've heard it all before. What this is, is a beautifully mounted three-compact disk set of S&G's entire oeuvre: "Wednesday Morning 3 A.M.," "Sounds of Silence," "Scarborough

Fair," "Bookends," and "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

The CD clarity is magnificent, and what a blessing it is to get two complete LPs on each disc — no getting up to turn anything over. If your vinyl versions sound like a bowl of Rice Krispies, or if you started buying music when the duo had already gone solo, you'll want this collector's item.



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March 10, 1990

Today is the 69th day of 1990 and the 80th day of winter.

S	A	M	W	T	F	S

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1896, the first modern marathon was won by Charilaos Vasilakos of Greece in 3 hours, 18 minutes.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Lillian D. Wald (1867-1940), American social reformer; Pamela Mason (1918-), actress; Heywood Hale Broun (1918-), broadcaster; David Rabe (1940-), playwright; Prince Edward (1964-), son of Queen Elizabeth II.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Sports do not build character. They reveal it." — Heywood Broun

TODAY'S MOON: Day before full moon (March 11).

ON AN AVERAGE DAY: Meals on Wheels serves 7,700 meals to home-bound elderly.

Source: "On An Average Day," by Tom Heymann (Fawcett Columbine)

TODAY'S BARBS BY PHIL PASTORET

Nothing ages one faster than making desperate attempts to look younger.

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