

# Disc Spin

## by Steve Skinner

**INXS**  
"Kick"  
(Atlantic Records, Tapes, CDs)

INXS has reached an all-time high on this one. Produced once again by ace Chris Thomas, it shines in clarity, spirit, and intensity.

Finally, an all guts, hypno-beat collection of real party-primed cuts. One can't pass up the urgency created through revelling guitars and heated chants on the opener, "Guns in the Sky." The dance groove slides in on "New Sensation" to a tune of screaming sax and glaring synthonic sound. The hypnotics begin with "The Devil Inside" which drones one into a suggestive, seductive state-of-mind. "Need You Tonight" asks for it all, while the track unnoticably slides into "Meditate." One "hallucinates, alleviates, annihilates, and fascinates," (not to mention all that's in-between) as the band begins to "relate" with lyrics illicit enough to make even Samantha Fox blush.

The energy-pumped, adrenaline-fed, rock'n'roll mastery "kicks" in on side two to the tune of the title track. Two others on the CD would serve well as B side singles, namely "Tiny Daggers" and "Calling All Nations."

INXS created interest in 1986's release of "Listen Like Thieves." INXS in '88 is set, alive and kicking. Watch out for tour dates for the United States soon, as the band may well track through with a successful album to boot.

**Close Lobsters**  
Foxheads Stalk This Land  
(Enigma Records, Tapes, CDs)

Checking the cover of their latest lp, one finds "First rate, upbeat pop," "If pop needs rebuilding, the Close Lobsters could give us a hand," and "What a wonderfully stupid name for a band," that are but a few rave reviews for this new, agitated band. I'd like to add more.

First and foremost, "What exactly is a Close Lobster?" It's obviously off the wall, genuine, and sparkling fresh. How about the "epitome of great pop?" Maybe not thus far, but their work here is on the way.

I'd like to claim this as alternative pop radio's saving grace. It sure molds a new existence into a world slaughtered with stereotypical releases.

Close Lobsters offers aesthetically pleasing pop sounds in "I Kiss the Flower in Bloom." They pump energy wildly in "Just Too Bloody Stupid." The rest clears the mind with a shower of spirit in "Sewer Pipe Dream," outright punk stabs at Sid & Nancy in "Pathetique," and gleaming production in "Prophecy."

"In Spite of These Times" rings on hours after one listens, and alternative waves are burning with the title track, "Foxheads." College radio should wear this one out. And if you're into new sounds, try a fresh lobster or two. Once you're hooked, you may never let go!

**Raymonde "Babelogue"**  
(Chrysalis Records, Tapes, CDs)

Just a little on the heavy side of the Smiths and a lot on the lighter side of The Cult, lies a new recording artist with the Chrysalis record label.

The band, Raymonde, hailing from London with an oh-so-typical, London "air" about them, are made up of Jamesmaker, Philhuish, Peterthomas, and Simonhoare (yes, these are correct spellings — see the album cover for details!).

All intentions are for this one to pick up on the same lines The Smiths left behind and explore new directions as well. One of these new directions is a killer, one-minute prelude, sung in Germanic opera form (without the German). "Oh Hellish Chorus" moves in a mystical, almost religious tone, flowing into a Cultish-style creeper called, "The Milk Train."

The monotonistic quality of Maker's vocals bring out the Smiths sound, alluded to earlier. The hollow vacancy of a relentless echo and calm "chordiage" claim com-

plete resemblance to The Cult (known for last year's "Love Removal Machine" and an earlier cut, "Sanctuary") without all the heavy guitar work.

Actually the guitar work on this album savors the flavor of country and western in a light-weight category (plain, tainted, and simple). Most of the work is acoustic. "Fool of Fortune" sings a solemn tune in this nature. "Every Single Night" is faint with slow, swaying twangs of a strummed guitar, pattered drums, and a whining melody from Maker.

Check out Raymonde's "Rock'n'Roll Ancestry" for a funk-inspired moment or two and "No One Can Hold a Candle to you" for their heaviest, most urgent, and intensified moments. The best cuts in the blend are "Solid State Soul" and "Been Too Many Years" with piercing vocals, driving guitars, and a delivery of inspiring rock which rotates to a tilt. Raymonde is a beginning which shouldn't end anytime soon and may well develop a cult following in alternative music in the years to come.

### Book Review

## Edgerton's Fiction Stranger Than Truth

Tanya Olson

Truth may be stranger than fiction but not in Clyde Edgerton's books. *Walking Across Egypt* is Edgerton's second novel, recently released in paperback. It is a tale that is focused around events that occur in a very short period of time in the life of 70 year-old Mattie Rigsbee.

The plot line begins with the rescue of Mattie from a bottomless rocking chair by Lamar, the dogcatcher, and ends with Mattie becoming the local guardian of a 16 year-old juvenile delinquent, who she threatens to marry in her endless hope for more grandchildren. The story's events become more hilarious and incongruous, although never unreasonable or illogical.

Seemingly, the goal in Mattie's life is to feed everyone who passes through her small town in North Carolina, a goal that brings about some very funny occurrences.

From the way every meal centers on food to the accents and diction of the characters, this is clearly a pure southern rural novel, although Edgerton's incredible story-telling ability makes it an enjoyable read.

It is Edgerton's southernness, however, that gives him his distinction as a novelist and it is a southernness that is similar to that of no one else. It is neither the southern gothic of a Faulkner, the southern grotesqueness of an O'Connor, nor the southern silliness of a Mitchell. Instead, it is an authentic, honest southern that is found in few places and in fewer books today. It is the ability to portray this lifestyle that makes Edgerton unique and important for the average reader, literary expert and historian alike.

Few could argue that Edgerton is not on his way to something big, and *Walking Across Egypt* is both a delightful and important step on this road.



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