

PICKS & PANS

(*I'm a...*). It features a steamy call-and-response dialogue between Nunn, 22, and Crawford, 23, with exchanges such as "I'm a man—I'm a blue movie/I'm a man—I'm a bitch/I'm a man—I'm a geisha." All of that and more unfurls to a sensuous barrage of synthesizers and an undulating bass. If that number doesn't raise your blood pressure or inspire cold showers, *Masquerade*, *Torture* or *World of Smiles* will. While there is nothing Prussian about Berlin, the tone of this band's music recalls, for better or worse, the intoxicating decadence of the German city in the '20s.

□ **BRANIGAN 2**
Laura Branigan

Her first time up to the musical plate last year, Branigan had a hit with a meaty-beaty tune called *Gloria*. It scored a Grammy nomination for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance and established



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her as a fresh darling of disco dervishes. This time the native of upstate New York has again given her dance fans plenty to hop about with *Solitaire* (the hit single from the album) and *Deep in the Dark*. But those who admire Branigan as a balladeer won't be disappointed in this LP, thanks to the slower, more plaintive *Find Me* and *How Am I Supposed to Live Without You*. Her voice is a punchy soprano that belts the melody along, and she sounds a little like Crystal Gayle at tearjerking moments, with melodramatic voice breaks and urgent cries. The artistic topper of this LP is a funny, funky version of The Who's dirty ditty *Squeeze Box*.

□ **PERCY!**
Percy Sledge

One measure of pop-cultural deprivation is never having heard Percy Sledge wail "When a mayyyyyy-un loves a wuuuuu-mun..." Before he cut the record with that title, which went gold in

Laura Branigan 2 satisfyingly follows up one of 1982's hottest debut albums.

aus:
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