

Page C16—Austin, Texas The Austin American-Statesman Thursday, April 21, 1977

# New Ferry album features looser singing style

By DAVE MARSH  
**BRYAN FERRY: "In Your Mind"** (Atlantic SD 18216).

Ferry's early solo albums, plus his work with Roxy Music, earned him a considerable cult following. This is his first solo album which does not feature older, instead, Ferry wrote all of it himself, and performed it himself. The results are mixed. The songs aren't bad, but there is nothing here to match his wonderful "Tracks of My Tears" or bizarre "Shame, Shame, Shame" from early solo works. But the music is solid and Ferry's singing is a bit looser, or

at least less mannered here. Whether he can be as fine an original singer-writer as he was an interpretive one remains, for the moment, an open question.

MARVIN GAYE: "Live at the London Palladium" (Tamla TT-30121).

At his best, over the past decade or so, Gaye has been a great blues singer, and a pop vocalist with more emotional range and a harder sensibility than Stevie Wonder. Lately, he's drifted off into repetition; this is his second live LP in three years and the studio LP sandwiched between

## ROCKING STONE record review

them is his worst. But some of his performances on this two-record set — particularly "Let's Get It On" — leave no doubt that he's still a great singer. The sameness of the material — do we really need a new version of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" — is distressing, however. Given new material, and the ability to shake off whatever personal de-

moss have kept him from consistency, "Live" offers no reason why Gaye can't regain his former artistic and commercial stature — and no evidence that he will.

IGGY POP: "The Idiot" (RCA APL1-2275).

As leader of the Stooges, Pop was rock's great sick comic, and highly influential among punk-rock minimalists and certain avant-garde types: Eric Burdon, this album's producer, David Bowie. But he finally turned to public acts of self-destruction that were both gory and boring, and never recovered. Even

Bowie's slicker-edged sound can't improve in a record whose moment of greatest fascination consists of a recital of the lates of some former Stooges, who are now dead or incapacitated.

TEDDY PENDERGRASS (Philadelphia International PZ 3459).

HAROLD MELVIN AND THE BLUE NOTES: "Reaching for the World" (ABC AB-969).

Together Pendergrass, Melvin and Blue Notes made some of the best black pop of the last five years. Separately, Pendergrass has the

edge because of his sheer vocal power (he's a bulldozer without much subtlety), which overcomes even the most cautious pop-mysticism producers. Gamble & Huff have been foisting on everyone lately. But Melvin gets his licks in: He kept Sharon Paige, whose duets with Pendergrass were among the group's most memorable songs, and he's added David Ebo, whose muscular impersonation of Pendergrass nearly, but not quite makes up the difference. The difference is crucial, however — whatever Pendergrass's limitations, they are his; Ebo's style merely lampoons them.

## Early Willie reissued

By TOWNSEND MILLER  
 Special to The American Statesman

**COUNTRY PICKS** from here and there:

RCA has gone into its vaults again for songs which Willie Nelson recorded before he switched labels. The newly-issued album is entitled "Willie Before His Time." The theme is well expressed in the liner notes: "...if you'd like to know what you were missing a few years back, give a listen to Willie before his time." Nine of the 16 songs are reissues of Willie favorites from earlier albums. This one is good, but my favorite album of early Willie material is "Willie Nelson Live," another RCA reissue from last year. It was recorded live at Fort Worth's famed Panther Hall.

Time has honored the all-time great songs composed by the veteran Austinite Floyd Tillman. Another kind of honor came his way last week when the Texas Senate paid formal tribute to this famed Texan of the music world. The move was sponsored by Senators Lloyd Doggett and Peyton McKnight, both avid country music fans.

There's talk around that David Alan Coe is seriously considering moving to Austin.

For you Jimmy Driftwood fans, Monument Records recently released a "The Best Of" album. It contains his classic compositions "Tennessee Stud," "Battle of New Orleans," and "Shanty in the Hole," along with other tunes he made famous.

Loretta Lynn's fascinating, humorous, moving, and at times jolting autobiography, "Coal Miner's Daughter," now is available as a paperback. If you can't find it locally, it can be ordered by sending \$1.39 to Warner Books, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y., 10013.

Asleep at the Wheel is due back home next week after their three-week, six-country tour of Europe.

The good word continues to spread nationally about the great talent and the good times which characterize Red Kennedy's Kerrville music festivals. For instance, no less than 54 four-day advance tickets have been sold to residents of Denver for the Folk Festival May 28-29, the first of this year's four outdoor events.

Sometime Austin resident Townes Van Zandt seldom stays in one place long. His friends and fans may be glad to know he currently has settled in Nashville. John Lomax, younger generation member of the famed



TOWNES VAN ZANDT  
 Settled in Nashville

folk music Lomax family, is working with Townes on bookings and overall management. Townes even has an active fan club now, issuing regular news and photos. To join, send \$5 to John Lomax, Box 1542, Nashville, Tenn., 37212.

Townes, incidentally, will be back in central Texas to appear at the Kerrville Folk Festival Memorial Day weekend.

Another reminder that the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville is sold out throughout the year for weeks in advance, sometimes months in advance during the summer. So order tickets early to avoid disappointment. For information, write Grand Ole Opry Ticket Office, 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, Tenn., 3714.

Stoney Cooper died recently in Nashville. Stoney and his wife Wilma Lee were country music superstars as a husband-and-wife duet in the 1950s and the finest folks you could ever hope to know.

It's interesting that two of the brightest flashes being made recently by newcomers to the national country music scene are from two girls with boys' names, Charly McCain and Marshall Chapman. Marshall, incidentally, is from the same area as the three members of the former Uncle Walt's Band, Spartanburg, S.C.

(Townsend Miller's country music column appears every Thursday and Friday in The American Statesman.)

ONLY 3 MORE DAYS

beautymist pantyhose SALE ENDS SAT. APR. 23

MOTHER'S DAY MAY 8

Style No.	Description	1 Pair 2 Pair	1 Pair 2 Pair
		Reg.	Sale
<b>PANTYHOSE</b>			
7053	88 Blue-Sandwich	1.29	1.17
7015	Red-Pink-Red-Red Toe	1.29	1.17
8805	All Blue-Sandwich Toe	2.00	1.75
<b>STOCKINGS</b>			
1003	Open Toe	1.50	1.35
2132	Open Toe-Heel National Toe	1.00	0.85
3108	Sandwich Toe	1.00	0.85
2402	Heel	1.00	0.85
6403	Control Sheer	1.65	1.45
<b>SUPPORT</b>			
9655	Amoroso Panty and Toe	3.51	3.25
9611	All Blue-Sandwich	3.65	3.25

easy suburban parking

**50% off this 4-pc. bedroom. Sale \$549**  
 Reg. \$999. Crisp herringbone pattern distinguishes our beautiful contemporary bed, room group. Polished pecan finish on solid oak, oak veneers and engraved wood products. Includes dresser; twin mirror; chest; and full or queen size headboard. Night stand, reg. \$90, Sale \$50.

**100% off this 4-pc. bedroom. Sale \$749**  
 Reg. \$949. Honey pine finish pine solids and veneers with softly rounded edges for an antique look. Includes triple dresser; hutch mirror; chest; cannonball headboard and footboard in full or queen size. Night stand, reg. \$120, Sale \$110.

**90% off this 3-pc. living room group. Sale \$588**  
 Reg. \$678. A vibrant bandana print in olefin covers this 80" contemporary style sofa featuring polyester wrapped polyurethane cushions, padded saddle arms, and sturdy kiln dried hardwood frame. Coordinating chair and ottoman upholstered in solid vinyl. Love seat, reg. \$340, Sale \$299.

**150% off this 5-pc. modular set. Sale \$866**  
 Reg. \$1016. Contemporary style group includes 2-pc. sectional, armless chair, extension piece and coordinating table with planter. A smart plaid olefin upholstery reversible seat and back cushions of polyurethane foam. Durable hardwood frame.

**20% off all our table lamps, \$25 to \$110**

Sale \$20 to \$88

A decorator's delight. 20% off sale includes temple-jar styles, hand-decorated; candlestick designs in brass-tone finish; country-types and contemporaries, too.

Use your charge to take advantage of our great 75th Anniversary buys

Sale prices effective thru Saturday.

JCPenney Our Great 75th Anniversary