

Road trips provide escape from school pressures, demands

The road sometimes speaks to us. It says something like this: "Give me your tired, your weak, your stressed-out masses yearning to breathe free." And we go — sometimes. We should probably go more often, but we don't. We have silly little excuses for not dropping everything and piling into a car headed for a random destination. "I have a test." "I have work." "I don't have a car." "Oops! Wait — those are the good excuses. But usually our slothfulness is the result of a lack of initiative rather than any good reason. The list of things that can really keep us from taking off on a random road trip is only going to get longer as the years go by. Soon we'll have to add work more often and maybe a family to the list. Then the kids will be in school, and we'll take our sick days to fly home for Christmas. And we'll only have memories of our road trips.

MICHAEL LANDAUER
ASST. AGGIELIFE EDITOR



We'll remember that night before school started when we went ice skating at The Galleria in Houston. Sure, we had just spent a month in Houston over Christmas and didn't go skating once. But it was getting there that made it fun. We'll remember the time we decided to visit a friend at another college and only called to warn them when we got in town. We'll remember weekend road trips when we ate nothing but pizza from Mr. Gatti's buffet. Or if we don't remember, we'll regret. There will be days spent snuggled nicely into the routine of life. We'll be all grown up with a career and a family. We'll be sitting in our office on a Friday afternoon wondering what it would be like to play hooky. We could be asking ourselves, "I wonder what would happen if...?" instead of telling ourselves, "Remember that time when...?"

We're in college. We're supposed to do certain things now because we may never have the chance to do them again. We have our entire lives to worry about how much mileage we're putting on our car. We have an eternity of laziness ahead of us. Some of us will always have classes to attend. But how often do we really have an opportunity to just get the hell outta Dodge? How many spring breaks do we expect the real world to throw our way? Some of us already feel that our world is too busy to walk away from for a weekend. We have classes, homework and studying to do. But before we graduate, we're going to attend so many classes — there's time to catch up. And next week there's no excuse. None of those classes will be waiting for us. Sure we may have work to do, but we can plan a little. We are fully capable of living a little. College Station has two things that make it the perfect inspiration for road trips. It is located in the middle of all the major Texas cities and it's only eight hours from New Orleans. The other thing it has going for it — and as much as we love Aggieland, we have to admit it — is that it's a great city to watch disappear in your rear-view mirror. It's nice to come home to, but as Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen said when talking about their front porch on Church Street, we remember the "coming-back's" but we don't "cry about the leaving." So when the road calls, go. Go, and leave everything else behind. Go, and get to know your friends, and even yourself, a little better. Go, and make memories or you're doomed to stay and wonder. The world's grip on us is only getting tighter. So if we have the chance, and next week we do, we should all get the hell outta Dodge. A great Greek philosopher once saw things the right way. OK, I'm really about to refer to Ferris Bueller, but I tried to add some credibility to this column. He said the world moves pretty fast and if we don't stop and look around every so often, we could miss it. Don't miss it — road trip.



By Erin Hill
THE BATTALION

Stouxsie and The Banshees
The Rapture
Geffen Records
*** 1/2 (out of five)

Way back in 1976, Stouxsie and The Banshees debuted at a London punk festival with an "avant-punk" version of "The Lord's Prayer." On *The Rapture*, their 14th album, they've reinvented themselves yet again, a feat that not just any band could match. "For us, on every album, we're a brand new band — and our body of work shows that," Stouxsie Sioux said in a press release. They've endured the fleeting trends of pop music and have held on tightly to their offbeat and mysterious brand of music. "We reject being sucked into the industry, the trappings and games," Stouxsie said. We distance ourselves from all that. We're outside that machinery and their clinched ideas of what we're about. I find that attitude narrow-minded ... I don't want us contaminated by that.

They've maintained their musical purity without becoming dull, in part

Strong vocals illuminate 'Rapture'

because of Stouxsie's knock-out vocals. Her voice practically crackles with electric currents — she demands to be heard.

She is one of the first women in alternative rock with a voice so delectable, hard and forceful enough to make Tanya Donelly, Kim Deal and Kristin Hersh cry with envy.

But Stouxsie hates being labeled. She was around before alternative was "it," and she will be around for a lot longer.

"If someone calls us 'gloomy and dark' again, I'll throw up," she said. "We have more facets and are far more diverse than that."

While gloomy and dark are certainly in her repertoire, Stouxsie can do much more.

Take "Tearing Apart," for starters. Stouxsie sweetly sings "I know it's all in vain ... I think we all should die." Even the edge in her voice could hardly be called dark or gloomy.

For the listener, she shines a light on the path of life, illuminating both the dark corners of human experience and the moments of joy.

Every song and theme seems to have been carefully chosen for this particular album. Even the order of songs is important, because she seems to write about defining moments in the evolving journey of life as they happen. Starting with "O Baby," she takes us to "Fall From Grace" and "Sick Child." As we exit the land of innocence, we hear "Falling Down."

What else could be next then, but the redeeming title song of *The Rap-*

ture, an exquisite love song with lyrics as innovative as you'll find anywhere.

"Reborn in ecstasy, with cherubim and seraphim," Stouxsie sings, sounding eerily like Jane Siberry's haunting voice with the same defiance of traditional song forms.

This song carves its way into the listener's mind like a headstrong river making its way across a deserted continent. Stouxsie takes us where we've not been before.

Martin McCarrick's keyboards and cello lend themselves well to the unique sound of this album, and Jon Klein on guitar, Budgie on percussion and Steven Severin on bass round out the cast of the impressive and intense Banshees.

"Sometimes we've been guilty of being too intense about things that have nothing to do with the music," bassist Steven Severin said.

But ultimately it is Stouxsie who steals the show. At once the painter of a bleak landscape and the portrait too, Stouxsie has agonized, suffered and lived to tell.

Her writing keeps getting better. Check out the vast expanse of the song "Forever" with the lyrics "Infinity stretches unlimitlessly/Countless days pass by immeasurably/Anniversaries gutter in the maelstrom whirling/A snowstorm of lustrous millennium."

With music like *The Rapture*, that's probably how long Stouxsie and the Banshees will be recording.



Steven Severin, Stouxsie Sioux and Budgie of Stouxsie & The Banshees

Farris explores new territory with solo debut

By Rob Clark
THE BATTALION

Dionne Farris
Wild Seed — Wild Flower
Columbia Records
*** (out of five)

"Won't you help me understand your plan?"

This might be the first time we heard Dionne Farris, as she sang the emotional ending to Arrested Development's 1992 hit "Tennessee."

But Farris has stepped out from behind the group's shadows to make her debut solo album *Wild Seed — Wild Flower*.

Farris is one of a seemingly new breed of female soul singers with a flair for social consciousness. Artists like Carolyn Wheeler, Des'ree and N'dea Davenport of The Brand New Heavies have emerged and even overshadowed the constant flow of mush from Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston.

Farris continues the spiritual themes of Arrested Development's first two albums, but her solo status gives her a whole new world to roam. She adds a touch of funk and even drama to her usually slower folk sound.

From the pulsating bass groove straight out of Lenny Kravitz's closet on "Stop to Think" to the funk twist of "Water," Farris brings new ideas to the often-tired themes of love that seem to dominate soul music.

The be-bop sounds of Take 6 and Bobby Mc-

Farris are almost duplicated in the simplistic but elegant "Human." Amid the highs and lows of a myriad of voices, Farris sings "Before I am black/Before I am woman/Before I am young/Before I am African — I am human."

Farris' main weakness is her songwriting, probably due to her fledgling status as a solo artist. But the rhymes of "Now or Later" are painfully obvious, and bring down an otherwise well-made album. Farris sings "What have I done to you to make you feel so blue ... I can see it in your eyes/There is no need to lie."

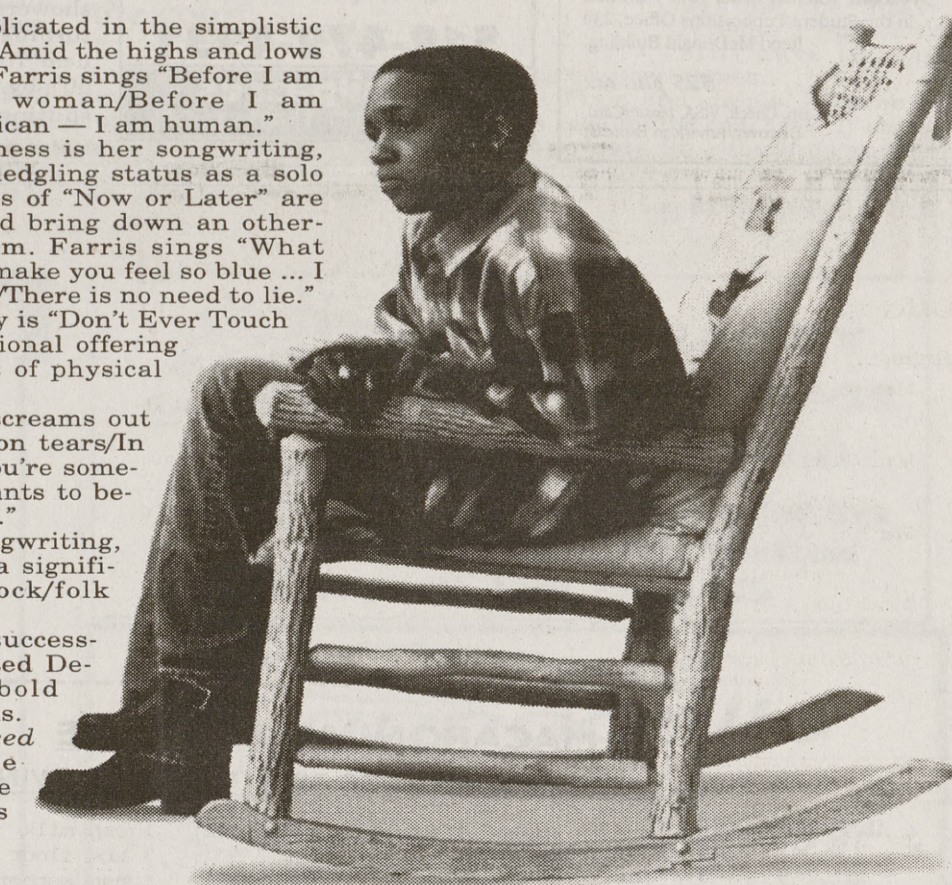
An interesting entry is "Don't Ever Touch Me (Again)," an emotional offering discussing the effects of physical and mental abuse.

Farris sings "She screams out every night in a billion tears/In desperate fear that you're somewhere near ... She wants to believe you still love her."

With improved songwriting, Farris could become a significant force in soul/rock/folk music.

Leaving a highly successful group like Arrested Development was a bold move for Dionne Farris.

But with *Wild Seed — Wild Flower*, she shows enough promise to prove such a step is the right one.



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	Is there a government job calling your name? <i>Opportunities in Government</i>	Kandy Rose Bryan City Councilwoman	212 MSC
	Student Employment Programs and Foreign Service with the U.S. Department of State	Isabel Flores and Mike Thurston Dept. of State, Recruitment Division	230 MSC
11:00-11:45	Job hunting in the Career Center <i>How to use the Career Center</i>	Julie Agee Graduate Asst., Career Center	229 MSC
	Make a lasting impression! <i>Interviewing skills</i>	Patricia Allman Pres., Allman Personnel Consultants	225 MSC
12:00-12:45	Don't sell yourself short! <i>How to write a resumé</i>	Vicky Satory Recruitment Coordinator, City of Bryan	231 MSC
1:00-1:45	Student Employment Programs and Foreign Service with the U.S. Department of State	Isabel Flores and Mike Thurston Dept. of State, Recruitment Division	230 MSC
	Is there a government job calling your name? <i>Opportunities in Government</i>	Joe Brown Public Information Officer, City of Bryan	212 MSC
2:00-2:45	Don't sell yourself short! <i>How to write a resumé</i>	Vicky Satory Recruitment Coordinator, City of Bryan	231 MSC
	How to become a hot commodity! <i>Internships and co-op's in Government</i>	Dr. Dixon Asst. Professor, Political Science	229 MSC
3:00-3:45	Make a lasting impression! <i>Interviewing skills</i>	Patricia Allman Pres., Allman Personnel Consultants	225 MSC

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