

MUSIC

Dr. A. Benton Cocanougher, Dean
College & Graduate School
Business Administration
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hope you will join us
for a presentation by
GENERAL ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR.
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
26 March 1996
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BENEFITING THE MDA

Sting's quality of music rises with *Mercury Falling*

By Amy Uptmor
THE BATTALION

Sting may be one of the few remaining relics of the early '80s who is still producing quality music, and he is only improving with age, as is apparent on his new album, *Mercury Falling*.

In keeping with the pattern of his last several solo albums, Sting has once again created a very different sound and style on *Mercury Falling*. In sharp contrast to Ten Summoner's Tales' dark, moody sounds and lyrics, *Mercury Falling* is a lively, popish album.

Don't be misled by these happy sounds, though, for Sting makes it clear that he has not relinquished his "King of Pain" title or his sense of mystery on this album.

Some of the most upbeat songs on the album are about being dumped. "I'm So Happy I Can't Stop Crying," despite its air of happiness, deals with the classic "I dumped you but I hope you're doing well" scenario. Sting sarcastically responds, "I'm so happy I'm laughing through my tears." The theme is repeated



ALBUM REVIEW
Sting
Mercury Falling
A&M Records
★★★★ (out of five)

in "You Still Touch Me" ("I seem to hear the raindrops saying / You won't come back").

Other high points of the album include the uplifting "Let Your Soul be Your Pilot," and the exquisite "La Belle Dame Sans Regret," which is written entirely in French.

Sting completes the thematic circle of the album by beginning and ending it with songs using the theme of "mercury falling." The album's first song, "The Hounds of Winter," brings in the beginning of the day as it begins "Mercury falling / I rise from my bed / collect my thoughts together / I have to hold my head." The album concludes with the painfully beautiful "Lithium Sunset," in which Sting

seeks healing through the setting of the sun as he sings, "Take this heartache / of obsidian darkness / and fold my darkness / into your yellow light ... see mercury falling."

This song may be the closest Sting has come to perfection in a song since he left The Police. Lyrically and musically speaking, it is poetic and haunting.

Sting's sound is always marked by unique instrumentation, and the same holds true on *Mercury Falling*.

Ranging from steel guitar and harmonica to a full horn section (compliments of ex-Jay Leno sidekick Branford Marsalis), the sound perfectly compliments the mood of every song and adds to the soulful, pop sound of the album.

But the term "pop" should not be a turnoff. The sound and style of *Mercury Falling* may be much lighter and even more radio-worthy than his past albums, but the depth and emotion is still outstanding. Sting fans can look forward to a change of pace with every album, and *Mercury Falling* falls pleasantly in line with that pattern.

Bad Hair Day shows why singer is classified as 'Weird'

By Dave Winder
THE BATTALION

The King of Parody is back, and in his latest effort, *Bad Hair Day*, "Weird" Al Yankovic shows why he is a reigning monarch. The parodies are perfect; the original songs humorous, and the polka medley is the best it has ever been.

Almost every parody on the album could rank as one of Yankovic's best. "Amish Paradise," sung to the tune of Coolio's "Gangsta Paradise," starts it all off, and from there the laughter begins. "And I've been milkin' and plowin' so long that even Ezekiel



ALBUM REVIEW
"Weird" Al Yankovic
Bad Hair Day
Scotti Bros.
★★★★ (out of five)

thinks that my mind is gone."

Next, Yankovic parodies U2 and the hit from *Batman Returns*, "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me, Kill Me," with "Cavity Search." Yankovic goes to the dentist's office and begs the doctor to "Numb me, Drill me, Floss me, Bill me."

None of Yankovic's original songs are outstanding, but they

can bring about a slight-to-a-medium chuckle. "The Night Santa Went Crazy" would have to be the best non-parody song on the album while "Everything You Know Is Wrong" and "I Remember Larry" are not bad.

The best thing that *Bad Hair Day* has to offer though is the "Alternative Polka." On every album that Yankovic does, he pays tribute to his favorite instrument, the accordion, by doing popular songs with a polka flavor. Most of the songs end up sounding so good that you wonder why the bands did not record them as a polka in

the first place.

This time around, Yankovic "improves" upon songs by Beck, Stone Temple Pilots, Sheryl Crow, Nine Inch Nails, R.E.M., Alanis Morissette, Smashing Pumpkins, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Foo Fighters, Soundgarden and Green Day.

The only thing I wish Yankovic would do different would be to put a little edge in his humor.

On past albums he has had fun with several subjects ranging from the conservative right to the liberal left.

On this album, though, he just stays in the middle. It is still awfully funny, so he must be doing something right.

WOMEN'S WEEK '96 MARCH 22-29

TEXAS WOMEN: A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

WOMEN'S WEEK STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT LIFE
SELECTED PROGRAMS OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS

Friday, March 22

Luncheon & Women's Week Awards Presentations
12:1-3:30 PM Student Recreation Center, Archery Room, 2nd Floor
Keynote: Award Winning Texas Author **Ruthe Winegarten**
COST: \$5 for students, \$10 for non-students SPONSOR: Women's Week Committee

Ruthe Winegarten Reception and Book Signing
2-4 PM J. Wayne Starke University Center Galleries SPONSOR: Women's Week Committee

"The Struggle of Equality for Women"
3-4 PM 302 Rudder SPONSOR: Phi Gamma Chi

Monday, March 25

Resource Table Fair and Women's Health Screening
10 AM-2 PM MSC Flag Room SPONSOR: Women's Week Committee, A.P. Beutel Health Center

Brown Bag Luncheon: "Romantic Relationships: What's Your Style of Loving?"
PLEASE PREREGISTER FOR PROGRAM BY CALLING 845-4427
12:15-1:15 PM MSC Cafeteria SPONSOR: Student Counseling Services

"Waiting to Exhale: Book Signing, Terry McMillan"
5 PM MSC Bookstore

Evening with Terry McMillan Speech and Filmscreening of "Waiting to Exhale"
7 PM Rudder Auditorium
COST: \$5 SPONSOR: MSC Black Awareness Committee, Women's Week Committee, MSC Film Society, MSC Literary Society, Texas A&M Bookstore

Tuesday, March 26

Brown Bag Luncheon, "Women's Health: Nutrition and Fitness"
12:30-1:30 PM MSC Cafeteria SPONSOR: Aggie REACH

"Women's Changing Roles and Responsibilities in the Community"
7-9 PM 601 Rudder SPONSOR: Women's Week Committee

"Take Back The Night"
9 PM Rudder Fountain SPONSOR: Texas A&M National Organization for Women (NOW)

Wednesday, March 27

Brown Bag Luncheon, "Women's Health: Sexual Health"
12:15-1:15 PM MSC Cafeteria SPONSOR: Aggie REACH

"Sexual Harassment 1996: Scholarly Definitions and Everyday Realities" --- Teleconference
12-2 PM 601 Rudder SPONSOR: Department of Student Life

"Straight Talk About Women's Health"
4:15-5:15 PM Student Recreation Center, 2nd Floor SPONSOR: A.P. Beutel Health Center

"Overcoming Obstacles, Facing New Challenges"---Panel Discussion on issues facing Graduate Women of Color
6-7:30 PM 302 Rudder SPONSOR: Hispanic Graduate Student Assn., Black Graduate Student Assn.

"Effects of Pornography"
8-9:30 PM 302 Rudder SPONSOR: Women's Studies Undergraduate Group

Thursday, March 28

"He Said/ She Said"
12:30-2 PM MSC Flag Room SPONSOR: Bridge Builders

"Playing the Game"
8:30-9:30 PM 302 Rudder SPONSOR: A.W.A.R.E. Aggies Working for a Rape-Free Environment

Friday, March 29

Brown Bag Luncheon: "Body Image and Eating Disorders: Why Aren't We Satisfied With the Way We Look?"
12:15-1:15 PM MSC Cafeteria SPONSOR: Student Counseling Services

Matuschka: Beauty Out Of Damage
2:00-3:30 PM J. Wayne Starke Univ. Center Galleries SPONSOR: WW Committee & Women's Studies

Women's Programs Open House
3:30-5 PM 112 Koldus Hosted by: The Women's Week Student Advisory Committee

for more information and full schedule of events contact
Department of Student Life, Women's Programs
@ (409) 845-1741 or drop by 112 John J. Koldus

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