



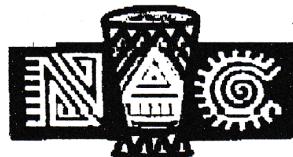
## 3rd Ear Music

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*To:  
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 AND his wife and  
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NEWS 5



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL  
 OF SOUTH AFRICA

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# Forgive and forget

## Ex-spy is contrite

A white South African guitarist whose songs were too "red" for the apartheid state has forgiven the former spy and amnesty applicant responsible for his woes, writes SANDILE NGIDI

**S**URPRISED "white communist" Mr Roger Lucey (68) mysteriously saw an abrupt end to his promising music career in the early 1980s. This former Durbanite, who wrote songs that exposed the injustices of apartheid, underwent spells of drug abuse and emotional turmoil when his career ended. He felt he had sung his last.

"My whole life just collapsed dramatically and I totally lost my confidence," said Lucey.

At those years in his life, he was a kind of "rebel" after apartheid intelligence "tally tricks" man Mr Paul Erasmus (42), convinced in 1982 that he was the man who had stopped the music.

From 1979 to 1982 Erasmus had been asked by his security handlers to "waste Roger and wreck his career".

Malcious damage to property and teargas throwing at the Arts Theatre in Johannesburg, where Lucey was performing, followed, as Erasmus danced to the tune of his masters.

After he had his last big show held and moved to Cape Town in 1982, Lucey was again "reduced" by the security branch after he attempted to revive his career there.

### Confession

"I had just distributed flyers for some shows when, out of the blue, I was called up for national service, something I had done 20 years back already."

He was later threatened with arrest for his defiance. Allusion Erasmus is yet to answer before the TRC on incidents of malicious damage to property and assault (relating to Lucey). Lucey and his producer Durban's Mr Dave Marks (35), have forgave him.

"I know that it's strange that I can't find any anger inside me towards him," Lucey said this week.

Erasmus said Lucey's gesture was a "lesson" for all South Africans.

"I now realize how far I've come," he added.

Now based in Cape Town and working as a producer for e-TV news, Lucey said that Erasmus had been a victim or brainwashing.

"I believe that he is genuinely contrite and has been fairly decent with me."

Lucey said that when Erasmus, who is a single father of two, called him to tell of his imminent man over the telephone, he was "deeply moved".

Eraser also said he was "sympathetic" to Erasmus and that he could readily see the monster that made people such as him.

He revealed that, had his 3rd Ear music company destroyed the last of Lucey's debut LP, *The Road Is Made Lame*, in 1982, he would have faced "a fine of R10 000 or a five-year jail term, or both".

Marks has just released a double CD compilation of Lucey's music.

The release is part of 3rd Ear's "The Hidden Years" series, another "hidden truth" - a remarkable celebration of South African music from 1964 to 1994.

The compilation was funded by the National Arts Council and the sleeve was designed by Andy Mason.