

"With the black stations it's better. They play anything — plenty in English and Afrikaans. After midnight they're especially good — on the black stations we get the closest thing we have to real music stations."

But neither black nor white SABC stations are playing Lucey. Marks has in fact not even bothered to submit the album. "I sent them the single we produced before the album. That had two of the best, and least political, songs on it. We got about two plays in total. There was no point in giving them the album."

Both Marks and Lucey get hot under the collar about the SABC's selectivity, and the unimaginativeness this breeds. Recording companies, they say, will only produce what they know the SABC will play. Anything else is a sure loser. With the result that innovative local music doesn't get a look-in. Says Lucey: "In America they work on an 80 percent

failure rate. Here, they want no failures at all." And Marks: "We should be exporting ideas and styles and records. In fact we import everything from America, and our own musicians merely copy the American patterns. That's where all the experimenting gets done." With the exception of a couple of small outfits like Marks' own Third Ear Music — which will turn its hand to anything local, from Lucey to the Durban Military Tattoo — South Africa sticks to the established patterns.

Last month, Lucey returned to SA after an exploratory trip overseas. He auditioned with Manfred Mann, himself an ex-South African, who was excited by *The Road*. But matters didn't work out as planned, and Lucey took to the road yet again.

He has done the wandering minstrel tour before, along with the stevedoring and crane-driving and sandal-making and

the series of short-lived bands and ill-equipped gigs which make up the background of the up-and-coming star.

This time he had an album and the beginnings of a reputation behind him. He's returned with an American manager, and plans to revive his South African career with rock music that is commercially viable.

Whether this will mean an end to his unique kind of content, time will tell. His friends doubt it. Unlike so many of the owners of South Africa's best musical talent, virtually all of whom are now permanently overseas where the action is, Lucey's musical ambitions are but a small part of him.

The rest is in the feel of the veld and the Indian Ocean and the mine-dumps of the Reef, and in painful love of the riven society which provided the stimulus to make him sing in the first place. ■

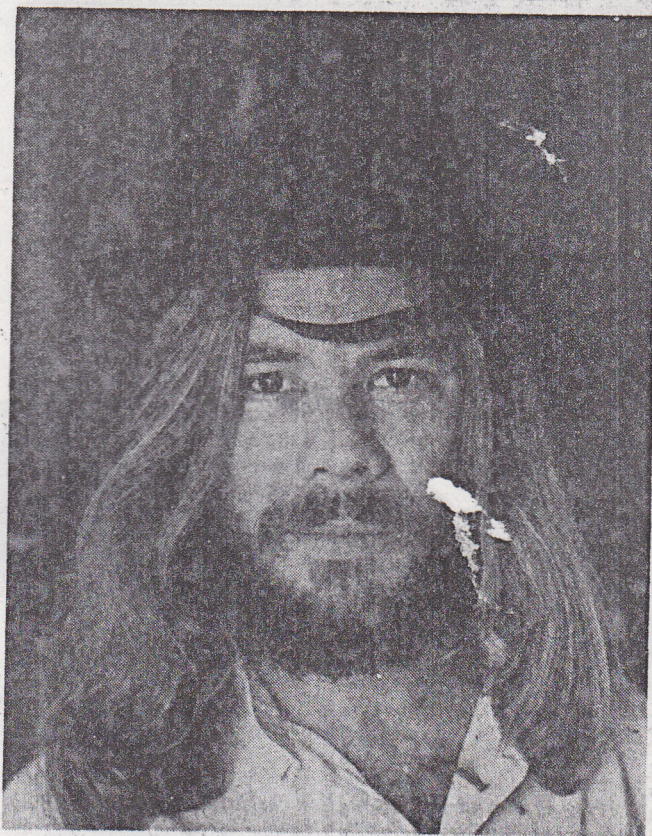


ROGER LUCEY

Windy Days

3rd EAR MUSIC 3 EZO12

Talked to Dave Marks about this — it's the sort of music that you have to be into. (Well, not the music but the way of life). I believe Roger Lucey may be talented but I don't believe we have the population to have him sell a lot of records. America is the place that has so many more people with varied taste. I see that Kenny Henson appears on this single as well, and I don't think he sells too many records — go to where the population is lads.



ROGER LUCEY