

# Entertainment Inner Views

by Mary Jo Santilli  
Entertainment Editor

Versatile, imaginative, moving, effervescent. These are some of the words I could use to describe Livingston Taylor's performance last Monday night at Erie Hall. Playing to a rather small crowd of 400, Taylor had the audience right where he wanted them by the second tune.

His style has a touch of that Taylor quality (he's James' younger brother). But definitely an artist in his own right, he plays a myriad of different instruments guitar, banjo, piano, and flute. Lyrically, he uses words like a painter, using different colors to describe emotions and feelings.

His personality is decidedly eccentric - his anecdotes between songs were unusual as well as entertaining. The interview I had with him prior to the show, proved Taylor to be friendly and easy going too. The type of person who'll put you right at ease from the very beginning.

I asked him how he liked playing smaller colleges or halls as opposed to say opening up for an act in a larger arena. "It's always more pleasant when you can play where people know what you play and have heard you before or know your music. If you're warming up for somebody in a big hall, that can be uncomfortable but then again the energy level when you get them on your side in a big hall can be very, very exciting. So frankly, I can do well in either place."

I asked Livingston a little about his family. He has 4 brothers and sisters who are very musical and I wondered if his parents were musical as well. "My parents are musical, not terribly musical, I've never felt so. There was a fair amount of music around our house."

I then wondered what made all of them so interested in music and performing "I don't know. Though I've been asked that question many times, I simply have no answer for it, what makes us interested in music as opposed to something else."

Many things have influenced Livingston's style and I found these influences, not the usual for a rock musician. "I'm influenced continually. A great influence on me was Ray Charles. I love show tunes, I love entertainers, surprisingly it's much easier to idolize. Those who are not your contemporaries, I really idolize

older entertainers, men like Nat King Cole or song writers such as Richard Rogers or Oscar Hammerstein as a lyricist. Or Cole Porter, I can idolize these people because I'm not close to them. My contemporaries I'm not close to them. My contemporaries I'm very hard critic of, as I would expect they are of me as well."

As far as his contemporaries are concerned, he has a wide range of tastes. "There are people who I am just in love with, Bonnie Raitt. I'm in love with Jonathan Edwards. I like really good rock and roll. I love nasty rock and roll, but by the same token I love Aaron Copland there are lots of things that knock me out."

The thing that impressed me though, was his attitude toward his life and his situation. I was curious as to how he dealt with the super stardom of his brother James and how it affected his individuality as a performer. "It simply has no affect on my performing, James and I are very close friends and brothers and we spend a lot of time together. It's very unfortunate sometimes to be compared is irritating, but I'll tell you, I do fine. I'm a good player. There are great quantities of

people who like me just fine, so I'm really not concerned. The other thing is, as time goes on, I'll emerge and I'll get a similar level of

success because that's just the way things go. Momentum and careers above all else change and momentum swings to and fro and up and down. This is what I do for a living and part of being a pro, is understanding that momentum does change - let'em go. The hell with them! My job is making good music for the people who want to come see me play."

At the moment, Taylor is not recording, but he hopes to be soon. He had no comment on the situation because in his words, it's a very provoking situation." His recorded albums which number three are out of print, much to Taylor's dismay and his musical future at this point is uncertain, but he hopes that things will eventually work themselves out.

Taylor's affable personality, his cooperation, and his delightful southern charm made interviewing him almost as enjoyable as watching his expert performance!

Well, until next time, have a nice Thanksgiving and we'll see you in December.

## Ims does it again

by M. Scott Douglass  
Collegian Staff Writer

For two hours last Wednesday night at the Behrend Coffee House, a lone figure of Shakespearean appearance in denim jeans and jacket, stood, seemingly portraying moods in his world of verse, before a 'barren' crowd, sharing himself with the few who had come to hear him play. But John Ims did not come to Behrend College to sing or play guitar, he came to perform, and perform he did. Strumming his guitar and singing with a fabulous voice that ranged from quiet and light to powerful and intense, John presented

himself, his world and the world that everyone of us touch and retouch daily in a complete and professional way. But something more, perhaps the well-established presence of John Ims on stage, reached out and grabbed hold of his audience as if his every word was wrought of wizardry. It was an evening of artistic perfection created by a local man striving for national recognition, and little doubt exists that he will attain his goal. As for a rating comparable to other Coffee House ratings—there is no comparison and even this writer's highest rating is insufficient for John Ims' performance.

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## Beatle quiz New book

(EARTH NEWS)

Do you want to know a secret? A new Beatles quiz book, hot off the presses, will answer all of your questions about the "Four lads from London."

And it asks a few as well. For example: Do you know — which day of the week was omitted from "Lady Madonna?" or, what is George's favorite candy? Maxwell's last name and major? Who climbed the Eiffel Tower in "I am a Walrus?"

The book runs the gamut of trivia quizzes from "multiple choice" to "fill-in-the-blanks" to test your Beatleknowledge.

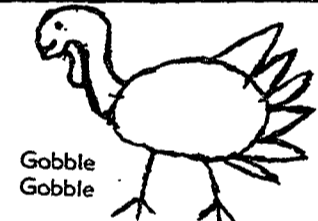
(Answers 1. Saturday 2. Jelly Beans 3. Maxwell Edison, majors in medicine 4. Semolina Pritchard).



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