

RECORDS from ROLLING STONE®

by DAVE MARSH

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON: "Easter Island" (Columbia JZ 35310) 3 stars.

Kristofferson's best album since "The Silver Tongued Devil and I," mostly because he seems more interested in melody and singing than in striking the right country-outlaw poses. The lyrics are occasionally obtuse, particularly in the title cut where Kristofferson draws links between mysticism and romanticism; the singing is strange, a little deranged like Leonard's Cohen's; the playing is considerably more complex — or at least much less sketchy — than on other Kristofferson albums of late. The highlights, in addition to Easter Island, are The Fighter, an elliptical description of the outlaw scene, and Living Legend, which combines religious and heroic western movie imagery to striking effect.

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THE ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION: "Champagne Jam" (Polydor PD-16134) 3 stars.

A really fine set from the least likely of Southern rock bands. The title is deceptive: this is probably the most tightly constructed Southern rock album this side of Wet Willie's "Manorisms," which is half of what makes it so attractive. The ARS can boogie, when it needs to, but it is much more likely to set up the kind of hypnotic riffing and singing of the hit single, "Imaginary Lover."

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JIMMIE RODGERS: "A Legendary Performer" (RCA CPL1-2504 (e) 4 stars.

RCA's Legendary Performers series is probably the best pop and jazz reissue program in the current record industry. The packages are slick but warmly produced, well-annotated, and the artists — from Louis Armstrong to Elvis Presley — are often among the most important in American music. This is a first-rate collection of Rodgers material, marred only by the reprocessed stereo — there's no reason this music shouldn't be offered in the monaural it was first created in. Still, those who don't know much about the Father of Country Music will be startled by how much his singing influenced not only country masters like Hank Williams and Ernest Tubb but also folkies, including Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan. It's nice to see American musicians receive the kind of respectful treatment corporations usually reserve for European classical performers.

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"STIFFS LIVE" (Stiff STF 0001) 4 stars

This proto-new wave collection includes some variations on punk rock themes — Ian Drury & the Blockheads, most pungently — and some of what people are beginning to call "power pop" — most notably, Elvis Costello, who does a wonderful version of Dionne Warwick's "I Just Don't Know What to Do With Myself" and Nick Lowe, with two originals. It's a perfect introduction for those who still reject the new sounds coming from England and the East Coast over the past two years as heretical; even the least of these artists (Larry Wallis' Psychedelic Rowdies, to be exact) has more energy than two-thirds of the Top Twenty. The best (Costello) is making a move on genius.

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(Records are rated from one star to five, in ascending order of quality.)

TV I.Q.

- Who produced 'The Dean Martin Show'?
- Who hosted 'Hootenanny'?
- Who was the star of 'Dan Raven'?
- Where was his office located?
- Who played the title role in the movie 'Pal Joey'?
- What is the first name of 'Columbo's' wife?
- Who was the star of 'Paris 7000'?
- What did 'Paris 7000' refer to?
- Who played the male chauvinist in the movie 'Every Man Needs One'?
- What series featured the character Susanna Pomeroy?
- Who played her?
- Who played the airline pilot in the movie 'I've Lived Before'?
- Who was Anthony Dorian?
- Who portrayed him?
- Who were Ernesta and Gwen?
- Who played the Broadway star in the movie 'My Six Loves'?
- What was the name of the detective in 'The Thin Man'?

- Greg Garrison
- Jack Linkletter
- Skip Homeier
- Sunset Strip
- Frank Sinatra
- Rose
- George Hamilton
- Phone number of the U.S. embassy
- Ken Berry
- Oh, Susanna
- Gale Storm
- Jack Mahoney
- The Magician
- Bill Bixby
- The Snop Sisters
- Debbie Reynolds
- Nick Charles

ANSWERS

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