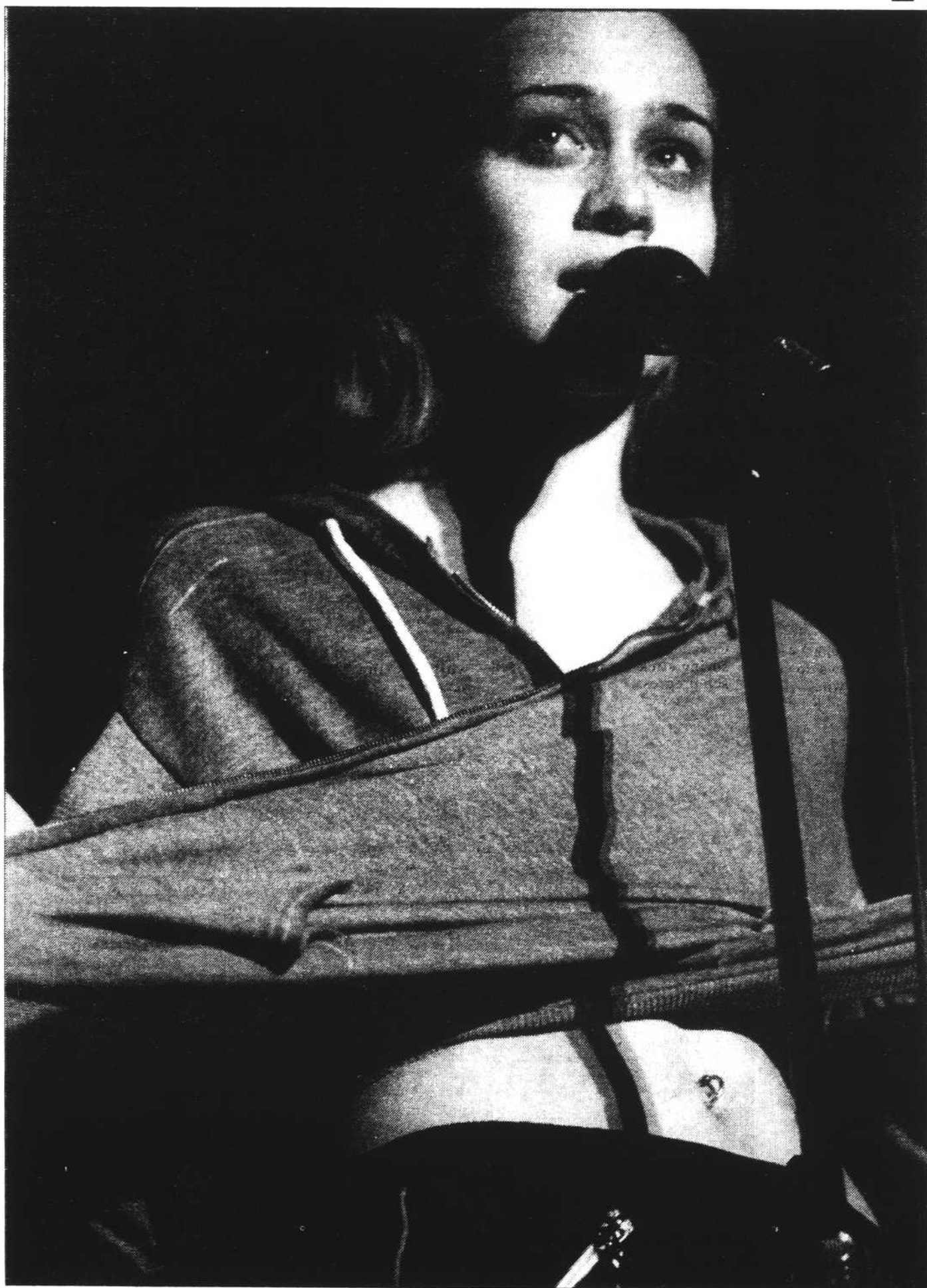


# The Skinny on Fiona Apple



**Concert Review**

## Strong, biting performance rocks concert

BY PATRICK KELLY  
*Music Critic*

Bathed in soft, violet-blue light amid the stage's silhouetted props, the eloquent singer-songwriter calmly entered the hall and sat at the piano. She began her set not with a heavy number to work the crowd into a tumultuous frenzy, but with the soft and somewhat mournful "The Child is Gone." The choice of song proved to the audience and to the performer that the night belonged to Fiona Apple.

"Depth is at the greatest of heights," said the introspective Apple at the beginning of her concert at a packed Mancuso Convention Hall in Omaha Saturday night. The little bit of un-sung poetry set the mood for the lyrical journey that was to follow.

However, energetic guitar-based romps quickly took Apple away from the piano and into the spotlight. The performance was dynamic, to say the least. Apple would calmly tickle the ivory with songs like "Shadowboxer" and "Slow Like Honey" and then jump to center stage for the more vibrant and hair-whipping "Sleep to Dream," "Carrion" and the more recent hit, "Criminal."

However, Apple was not limited to the songs off her debut album, "Tidal." She encoored with the R&B classic "Use Me" and a soulful rendering of the Jimi Hendrix ballad "Angel."

Apple's manipulation of the music (and the audience in the process) made an impression on the audience members who were between the ages of 13 to 50.

Her onstage demeanor was quite similar to that of her music, unpredictable. She was brash and gutsy, yet at the same time she seemed shy and nervous. She used raw sexuality (seductively dancing for the audience and eventually taking off her midriff shirt leaving only a thin white halter top and black slacks), but still conveyed a sense of modesty. This seemed to carry over into her vocal style: calm and delicate one minute and raw and powerful the next.

In all, her music stemmed from a unique and

Please see **FIONA** on 14

**FIONA APPLE** - energetically romping through tunes such as "Criminal" - delighted a packed Mancuso Convention Hall in Omaha Saturday.

Photos by  
*Lane Hickenbottom*

