



## Concert Review

# Ry Cooder steals spotlight

By BILL LOFTUS

Ry Cooder stomped out of the murky backstage depths of the Dome Wednesday night, bundled in a snorkle jacket and knitted tan gloves like grandma used to wear. After shedding his parka, he gloved a few riffs for a joke and then, after their removal, got down to entertainment.

Ry Cooder is something of a fossil. He and Leon Redbone and Randy Newman all belong to a group of musicians who may or may not write their own songs but do draw heavily on regional or turn-of-the-century material.

Ry Cooder has the old type of stage personality. He gave the audience anecdotes concerning the origin and content of his songs. For example, "FDR in Trinidad" was written in honor of Franklin Roosevelt during Jamaica's first presidential visit. Of course there were

other songs like "Goin to Brownsville" and "Jesus on the Mainline," which sounded somewhat lonely without the gospel backup. He also played, maybe as a tribute to Moscow, "The Farmer Feeds Us All."

Cooder was a gentleman in his encore too. After a minute or two of robust applause, he returned, and thanked the audience and played more songs.

Young has been going on the road for a long time; he was an integral part of the Youngbloods during the 60's and hasn't taken any time off since. He is probably one of the most professional performers on the road now. His band plays consistently polished songs. He does like to give the audience what it came to hear. Wednesday night he played "Light Shine," "What's Goin' On," "Song for Julia," "Miss Hesitation," among others.

Young's songs seem to feel old after a few too many listens. One of their biggest faults can be traced to one word: "Mamma." Now surely there are other synonyms for a woman, yet almost every song had that word in it. Oh well, Young's band was more than adequate. There were some synthesizer-brass interactions that resulted in some truly luminous music. Some of the newer songs like "Louisiana Highway" were much more animated than the old favorites and sounded better for it. Young was the business man at the end too. He demanded and got the standard five minute clapping and hollering session. And then at the end he actually incited the whole audience to hold lighted matches over their heads in the hallowed Kibbie Dome during a song called "Light Shine."

Flowers-Plants-Corsages  
Posters-Incense-Oils