

Joni Mitchell still leads the band with her new live recording

SHADOWS AND LIGHT/Joni Mitchell Elektra/Asylum Records
By LISA ZOWADA

Lovers of the old Joni Mitchell will lament. Admirers of the new Joni Mitchell will applaud. But both will hear in her new live album, "Shadows and Light," the exuberant performance of a dedicated and innovative musician.

The album features Mitchell's jazz effort with the late bassist Charles Mingus, the transitional albums "Hissing of Summer Lawns," "Hejira," and "Don Juan's Reckless Daughter." Mitchell's live album presents an opportunity to follow these collective and individual performances. It is a trip well worth taking.

As much as she is a musician and composer, Mitchell is also a poet and philosopher. Her compositions demand the same strength and sensitivity in interpretation they demand in composition.

Mitchell is backed by the very best session musicians. Michael Brecker's sax is ever present but not overbearing. Whether he is deceptively soothing with the sexy, sensual tones of his instrument or playing with the fever of a jockey riding a dark horse to the finish line, Brecker's sax is the perfect compliment to the vocal breaks. "Black Cow" and "Hejira" are Brecker's finest moments on the album.

Also included in Mitchell's band is guitarist Pat Metheny. Metheny's playing sounds as if every note were made of fine

china. Metheny's playing includes such fullness in sounds as if each note was the only note he played all night. His solo between "Amelia" and "Hejira" is easily the finest instrumental break on the album. Over Lyle May's swelling organ chords Metheny plays a melody that sounds as if it could be the accompaniment to a divine revelation.

Under all this music is Jale Pastorius' bass. First heard on the "Hejira" album, Pastorius' bass sounded like a muted French horn and at other times like a prison door slamming shut, defying the human ear and its melodic expectations.

Under the careful direction of its master, Pastorius' bass occupies almost as much space as Mitchell's vocals.

But above all these musicians is Mitchell. If her last few albums were busy trying to acquaint the listener to strange, new melodies, Mitchell's latest work reveals the poet at work. Her lyrics reveal both a reflective person and a willingness and ability to question one's ego, and to wonder if life is going the way she had intended.

"Maybe I've never really loved I guess that is the truth/I've spent my whole life in clouds at icy altitudes." Mitchell wrote. On this album she is as conscious of her performance as she is of her examination of life.

"Shadows and Light" is fine tribute to Mitchell's genius. Despite a backup band of such talented musicians, Mitchell still emerges as the star of the show.

Metropolitan Opera performers agree on new contract

NEW YORK (UPI) - Chorus and ballet members of the Metropolitan Opera ratified a new contract Thursday and officials of the nation's premier opera company said it will finally open its season by mid-December.

The opera house was forced to cancel its performances Sept. 22 in a dispute with orchestra members who subsequently won the right to perform four instead of five times a week.

That pact was expected to pave the way for a quick settlement with 20 other unions, but the chorus and ballet refused to consider any wage offer until the Met resolved their "unique" grievances.

A spokesman for the union, the American Guild of Musical Artists, said that was done over the weekend. The rank and file ratified the pact Thursday in a closed-door meeting. Details were not available.

Though six other contracts remain

to be negotiated, a spokesman for the opera house said the Met felt there would be little difficulty in reaching agreement with them.

Anthony Bliss, executive director of the Lincoln Center based company, said he had begun to try to line up stars for the opening performance of "Lulu."

"There will be a 1980-81 opera season," Bliss said in a statement after the pact was ratified. He added, "I do not know what shape the season will take."

"It is very likely there will be weeks where we perform fewer than our regular seven performances because of the uncertainty of the past 2½ months while we were engaged in labor negotiations, it has not been possible to make concrete plans or make commitments with artists."

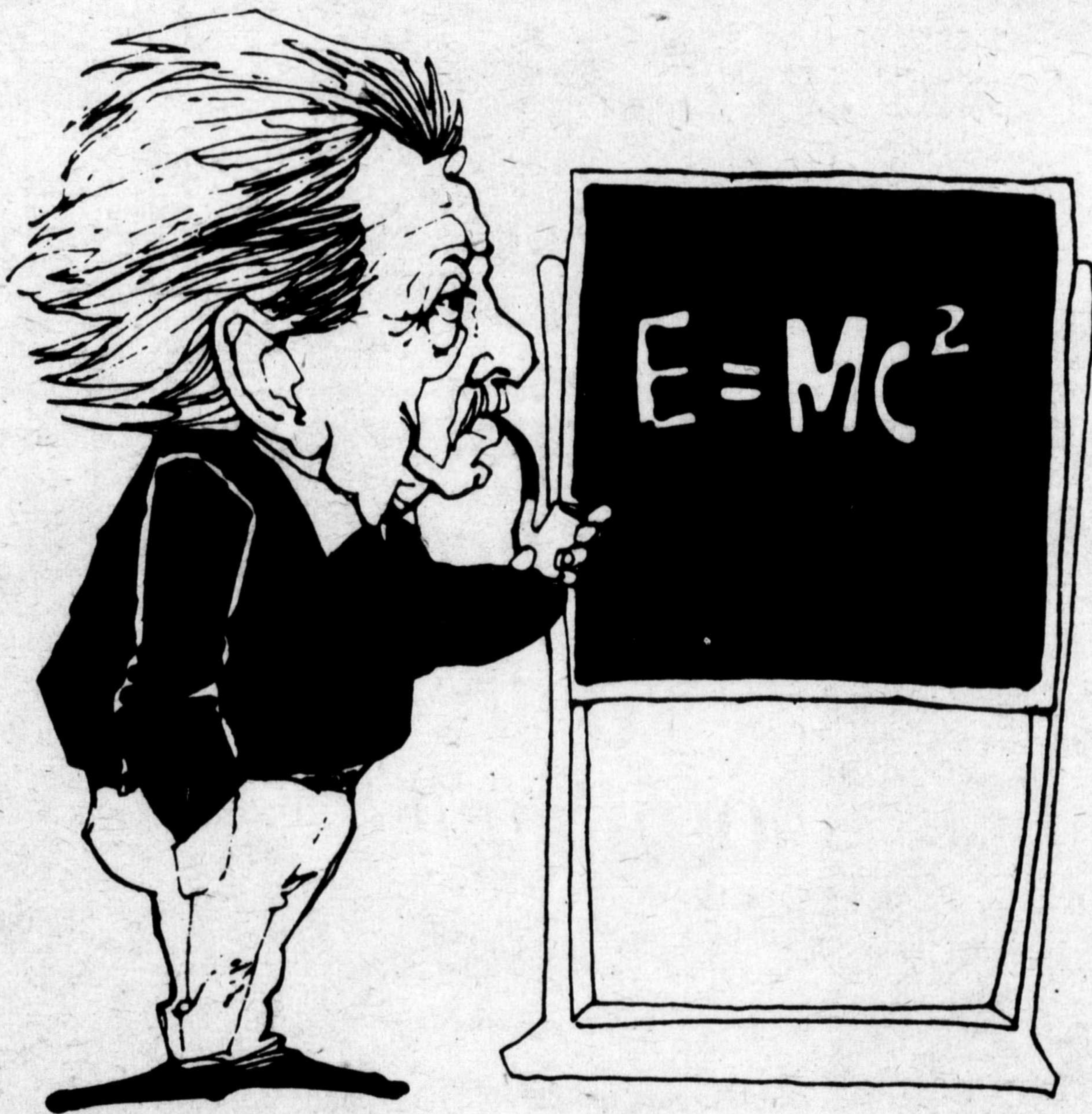
A spokesman for the Met said season ticket subscribers would be notified by mail of available performances as soon as details were available.



Actress Suzanne Somers reports for duty as she leads a USO troupe overseas during the coming holiday season.

Coming This Sunday: UConn PIRG's

MAKE IT ~~NUCLEAR~~ NUCLEAR POWER TEACH-IN



Sunday, November 16

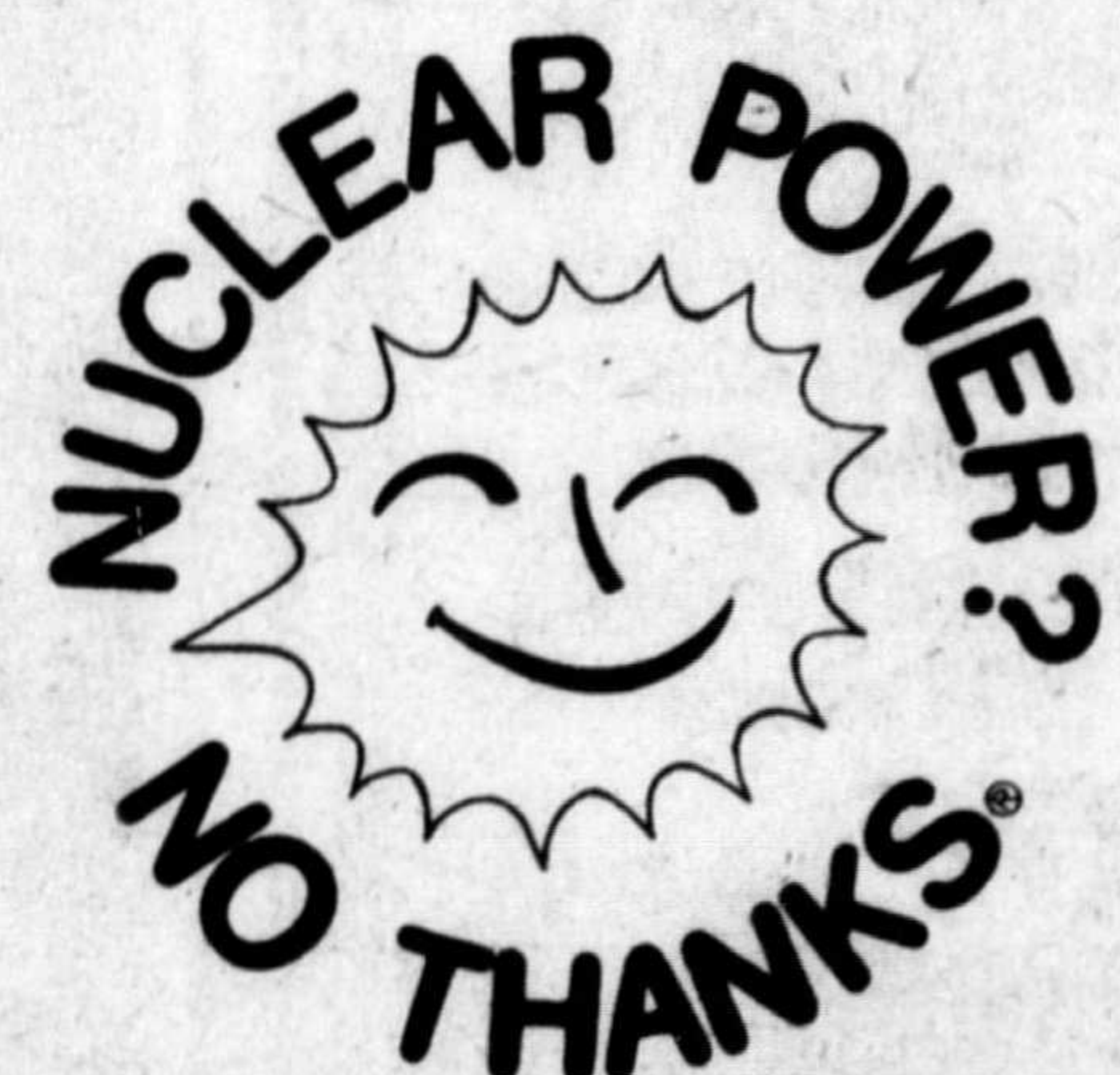
10-5 PM (teach-in)

7-10 PM (coffeehouse)

Third Floor Commons.

For more information about the teach-in, contact UConn PIRG at 429-1606 or stop by Commons 216. This teach-in is being co-sponsored by the Good Food Vegetarian Co-op Restaurant Truck, Students for Peace, and the International Democratic Community.

10:00 AM: Opening Speaker, State Representative Paul Gionfriddo
10:30-12:00 Workshops:
"Effects of Nuclear Power on the Body," Dr. Diane DeCosimo, Physicians for Social Responsibility
Transport of Nuclear Waste in Connecticut," State Representative Paul Gionfriddo
"Nuclear Reactors in New Jersey," Pat O'Connor, NJ PIRG Staff.
Lunch Break: 12-1:30
1:30 PM Panel Discussion, "Nuclear Economics"
Charles Bardes, American Nuclear Insurers
Allan Driscoll, Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Ed Mierzwinski, UConn PIRG
Thomas Price, Combustion Engineering
Jan Radder, Northeast Utilities
Barry Zitser, State Consumer Counsel
Paul Weiner, UConn Economics Professor and former Commissioner, State Public Utilities Control Authority (moderator)
3:00 Workshops
"Organizing Against Uranium Mining," Eric Kilburn, Vermont PIRG
"Price-Anderson Act and Nuclear Insurance," Charles Bardes
"Environmental Strategies for Promoting Safe Energy," Dan Millstone, Connecticut Fund for the Environment
"Energy Alternatives for Connecticut," Steve Nadel, Home Maintenance Corporation
"Connecticut's Nuclear Power Plants," Jennifer Goodwin, Fund for Secure Energy (FUSE)
4:30 PM Closing Speaker:
Tom Kinder, FUSE executive director, "Nuclear Power in Connecticut's Future"
7-10 PM: Coffeehouse with "Water's Edge," from Montpelier, Vermont (Bring your folk-dancing shoes)



Buttons in 8 languages and T-shirts on sale, SU Lobby, today and tomorrow, 11-2 PM.