

## Joni and Leonard:

### Merging of Poetry and Folk-Singing

The names Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen have been linked for some time now in the fields of music and poetry. One can easily see by listening to their records how they trade techniques and influence each other. Other artists, like Judy Collins record both Cohen's and Mitchell's songs, often treating them as if they were written by the same person. It was not surprising when Joni came to Guelph this Tuesday evening that Leonard Cohen was sitting in the audience. Afterwards, we were lucky enough to talk to them and found them to be strikingly different. Joni Mitchell appears as the mainstream female folksinger, while Cohen remains the poet.

Joni spoke mostly of changes among her friends and new trends in their music. "A lot of my friends ... are entering into an organic period where they want real things, where they want truth, where they want real wood and acorns on their kitchen table and home-baked bread and they want the same thing in their music." She spoke of returning to the craft-oriented family, returning to the country, to the natural life. "Environment has so much to do with it. A lot of your artists, a lot of your rock and roll musicians have got fed up with the cities and have moved to the country for fresh air, for real things and to avoid harassment because of the way they dress, the way they look."

One got the impression she was retreating into another sort of life, and certainly many of her songs reflect this retreat in their dream images, in their soft and pretty words. About her whole performance and speech there is a great air of respectability, of virtuosity, about which one can't help but wonder in respect to its "realness" or "naturalness".

She spoke of the athletic era, while she was attending public school, when poetry was "something to be ashamed of", and immediately Cohen interjected with "It's coming back." Joni laughed and told us that Leonard was training to be an athlete, "He's

starting a new movement." Someone asked, "Is this why we've heard you are not going to be doing any more concerts?" "Yes, look for me on the playing fields." At this point everyone laughed but seemed to miss the fact that Leonard was speaking in a very potent metaphor of a change that he was going through.

"Leonard, really, why have you pulled out?"

"Pulled out of what?"

"Out of giving concerts."

"Oh, I've never pulled out. I'm doing the same thing as I always did. But it's just my landscape. It changes from other people's vision. But I always feel I'm doing the same thing as I've always done. I mean I just do the days as they come. Some days I mean I just do the days as they come. Some days you'll find me on the stage, some days on the playing field."

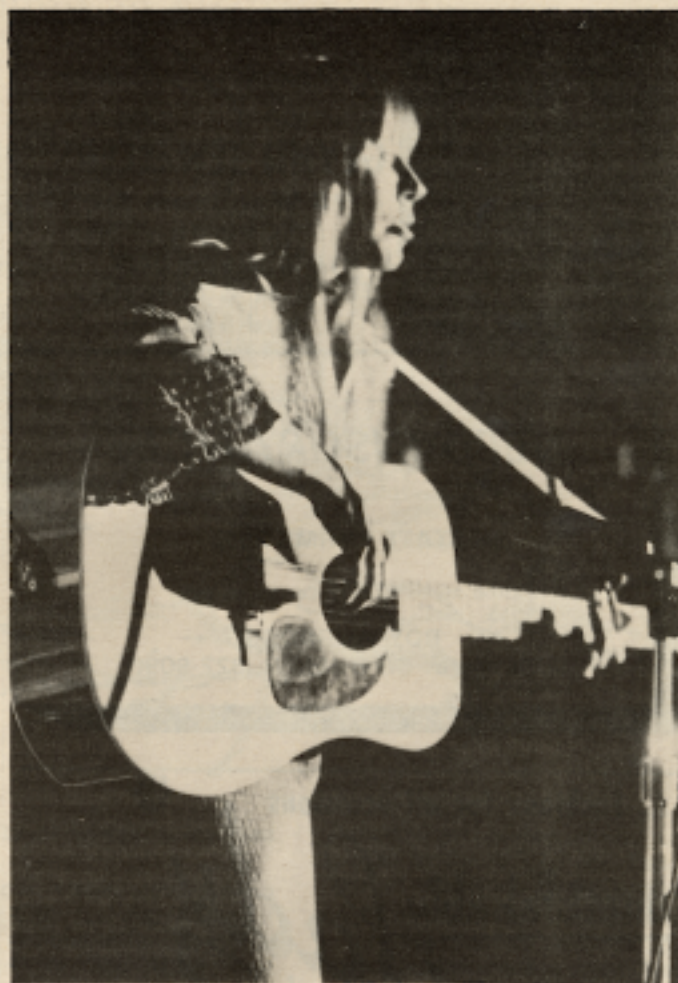
It seemed that while Joni spoke of getting away from the "game", from the hectic life, Leonard was speaking of getting even more and more involved in that game, of even becoming a player.

"Each of you has one record out now. Will there be more coming out?"

Joni answered, "I plan to do another one this fall and Leonard has recorded two songs. I don't know, (to Leonard) are you going to finish it?"

"Well, I think between the goals..." but again the room was filled with laughter and his words were drowned in misunderstanding. Unfortunately the climate was not receptive to Leonard's mood, and we heard very little of what he had to say.

Joni is a beautiful singer, with beautiful thoughts, and a beautiful way of putting them across. Her whole conversation showed her to be aspiring to be one of the "beautiful people". But we found Leonard Cohen a poet-athlete all the way, with no aspirations beyond today. When asked if he thought Joni was in a state of grace, he replied smiling, "I think she's very graceful."



Pat Bowser Photo

Joni Mitchell, assisted by the impromptu appearance of Leonard Cohen, enthralled her audience in the first of several Tuesday night concerts planned for this semester. Her lyrical presentation borders on sheer poetry and proves Joni to be a frontrunner in the folk world.



### SPECIAL NYLON SKI SHELLS

Crested - University of Guelph  
With attached hood - zipper front  
Drawstring waist - Sizes Small, Med.,  
Large, Extra Large

(while stocks last) \$10.95 each



at your

**Campus Co-op**  
21 COLLEGE AVE W

## TRAVEL



Representing all  
MAJOR AIRLINES  
STEAMSHIPS  
CRUISES & TOURS  
ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE

### TANTARDINI'S TRAVEL AGENCY

22 Carden St., GUELPH, Ontario

- Tel. 821-2220

Joseph Macerollo, Prop. - Res. Tel. 824-3860

### Fred A. Hoffman OPTOMETRIST

PHONE 824-2071

58 St. GEORGES SQ.  
GUELPH

### British Motor Repair

Guelphs Exclusive  
BRITISH  
CAR REPAIR SERVICE

AUSTIN • MORRIS • MG  
RILEY • WOLSELEY  
• AUSTIN HEALEY

27 Suffolk Street East  
(Cor. Yarmouth & Suffolk Sts.)