

Tom Rush Tells Why He's Now Electrified!

BY LORAIN ALTERMAN
Free Press Teen Writer

Once upon a time folk singers looked at electric guitars and top 40 radio in horror. Then several years back the big hero of the folk world, Bob Dylan, shocked the purists by plugging into the electric current and getting his records played on top 40 stations.

The barriers between folk and rock began to crumble. Other folk singers start recording with electric guitars and checking to see if their records made the 'hot-100' charts.



Loraine Alterman

Tom Rush, 25, is a popular folk singer who has released a couple of single records aimed for the top 40 charts. The first was "Who Do You Love" and the latest is "The Urge for Going" written by Detroit's Joni Mitchell.

Tom stopped in Detroit recently to talk about this new single which uses electric guitar and bass.

"If you're going to play and play for people I think you want to play for as many people as possible," Tom says in explanation of putting out a single not strictly in the folk bag.

About the screams of dismay that surrounded Dylan's departure from pure folk Tom says, "I don't think there should have been such disapproval. Music is music. But with him it was a sudden transition. . . . Whereas I always sang the early rock 'n' roll of the 50's, kind of tongue in cheek, in my act. So no one was really amazed by it."

Tom played around Boston while he was still at Harvard. After he graduated in 1964 he started performing at various folk clubs and in concert around the country. He's played for enthusiastic crowds at the Chess Mate here three times and that's where he got acquainted with Joni Mitchell.

Tom first recorded "Urge" for one of his albums last February, but it was left out of the album. Then WBZ in Boston got a tape of the song which they played and listeners started calling the station and writing Elektra Records, the company Tom records for, demanding it be put on record. So Tom re-recorded it for single release.

"Joni was born in Canada," Tom explains, "and the song is about the coming of winter which in this part of the country is pretty dramatic. It has a powerful meaning as an event. . . It's a good song that a lot of people should hear. I think it would mean a lot of things to a lot of people."

In the pop field Tom singles out groups like the Beatles, the Stones, and the Spoonful as producing good music. "They come up with ideas that are interesting and surprising to me. They go into chord changes or melody lines that are interesting both to my ears and head as a musician."

On the other hand, he hears a lot of "slop" on the radio now too. "This stuff is completely predictable from beginning to end. All of the ideas there have been used 100 times before. Nothing is happening. There's no imagination or creativity. The only creativity is to design a record calculated to sell."

Tom's only message whether he's singing a Chuck Berry number or a folk song is to say, "Here's a good song. . . I enjoy singing. I really do honestly enjoy singing songs for people because I think the songs are good."

One thing worries Tom and that's "When kids tell me 'My parents don't like folk music but they like your records.' I never could figure out what it did mean."

Inky Dinky The Bear

Under that Inky Dinky bear costume at the Ice Follies opening Tuesday at Olympia lurks a teenager. With the Follies two years, Cathy Freed,

19, has her first featured role this season.

Talking over the phone from Chicago the other day Cathy said, "I enjoy doing the Inky Dinky number so much; I have a ball when I'm out on the ice. Kids get a big thrill watching."

Cathy skated for eight years in her home Allentown, Pa., but Follies' rules make skaters finish high school before joining. "I'm glad I finished high school," Cathy explains. "I know I will have to go into something else when I am finished with the Follies and an education is important."

What's the most exciting thing that's happened to Cathy so far? She answers "Having my parents and great-great grandmother who is 91 see me skate in the show."

Cake for Gary And 1,000 Others

A "Goodbye to Gary" party will be thrown for Gary Lewis at the Carnaby Street Fun Festival on Saturday, Nov. 19. Gary, as you know by now, will be appearing on the Dick Clark show at the entire three-day festival. The Detroit Gary Lewis Fan Club wants to give Gary a fabulous send-off, for he enters the Air Force Dec. 5. Scott Regen will be on hand with the Big V and there'll be a cake big enough to feed 1,000 people. Plus Gary will autograph 50 of his records to give away. Everyone is invited.

18-Year-Olds Carried Here

That 18-year-old vote proposal may have been defeated in Tuesday's election but it won in Oak Park High's mock election conducted Monday by a vote of 293 to 264. Not much of a margin, though, considering the voting was done by teens. In that same election chaired by senior Larry Pepper, Romney beat Ferency by 288 to 277 and Williams defeated Griffin by 336 to 222. The Political Science Club with Richard Victor as president conducted the mock election.



TOM RUSH, the singer who loves to play for people.

Here, There And You

The Rationals are off to Tampa, Orlando and Daytona Beach, Fla., this weekend to play on a package show with the Association and Syndicate of Sound. . . . Janis Ian told me last week that Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels are so hot in New York City that they get torn apart by enthusiastic fans wherever they go. . . . The Torquays have changed their name to the Trees, according to group member Steve Gary, "because 'Torquay' was the name of an old instrumental and the name sounded too much like the 50's." Hey Steve, trees have been around for a few years too! . . . "Who Do You Love" is the Woolies new release for Dunhill Records. They recorded it when they were in Hollywood in September. These guys should prove again that the Detroit area is a major talent center for the record industry. . . . Ann Arbor's plush teen club, the Fifth Dimension, open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, started a dance contest last weekend with \$50 cash given to the winning couple each week and \$100 given to the over-all winner at the end of 10 weeks. Terry Knight and the Pack will be playing there on Nov. 19.

School plays coming up soon — Osborn High will present "Stage Door" November 17 and 18. Those same two nights "Teahouse of the August Moon" will be staged at both Pershing High and at Southfield High. Southfield's production will run an additional night, Nov. 19.

W 12 Top Singles