

# Good grief! Canadian rock is expounding

By James Muretich

(Herald staff writer)

Poor Tom Cochrane's got it all wrong.

Doesn't he know you just can't try and be intellectual in rock 'n' roll, especially the Canadian variety?

So where does this singer-songwriter for the group Red Rider get off trying to actually say things which have some significance in the greater scheme of things during a concert at the Max Bell Arena?

Red Rider does lay down some hard-hitting, straight-ahead rock sounds in concert, the kind where the bass lines vibrate in the pit of your stomach and the beat is pulsating enough to drive a typical Canuck rocker dance crazy.

But Cochrane isn't satisfied just with being a solid rocker; he feels a need to write songs about the perils of power, gun-toting maniacs and about the need for humanistic values in the world today.

**Red Rider and The Deserters at the Max Bell Arena Saturday. Attendance: Approximately 3,800.**

At least the music hits the crowd in a Tom Petty-style fashion but unlike If Red Rider keeps this up — and it's enjoying success, too — people might just start thinking when they're rockin'.

On top of all this, the opening act of The Deserters also displays an aggressive sound (though slightly more wavish in style) that is rock-steady but delves into such things as schizophrenia and nuclear war.

In fact, this group is extremely impressive on stage with its propulsive music and smooth harmonies.

What Saturday's show proves is that Canadian rock is becoming less and less content to recycle "baby-baby-baby" mutterings and actually beginning to say things that matter. Boy, what's this world coming to?