

Music with poetic message

By **ROBIN WELLES**
Copley News Service

HOLLYWOOD — In the 1960s it was Dylan, in the 1970s it was Springsteen, and in the 1980s it's Red Rider.

The common theme is music with a message.

Says RR vocalist-composer Tom Cochrane:

"Throughout our music there has always been an undercurrent of social consciousness. There is too much 'wham, bam, thank you, ma'am' in rock and roll already, and I don't think musicians should be afraid to make statements or take a stand through their music."

RR's third album, the two-record "Neruda," for Capitol, is a case in point.



TOM COCHRANE
...leader of Van-
couver's Red Ryder.

"Pablo Neruda was ostracized from Chile and he died in exile in 1973," said Cochrane.

"He was chastized for his individuality, for saying what he felt, and there was no place in Chile for him at that time economically, socially or morally, so he had to leave. His individuality just didn't fit in."

Although much of the album evokes the spirit of Neruda, it probably is focused most in the song, "Human Race."

Cochrane became a fan of poet Neruda after reading lines like these:

"And I do not weary of going and returning. Death, in its stone aspect, does not halt me."