



Ned Powers

TOM COCHRANE, leader of Red Rider, believes the band is gaining its remarkable recognition because it finally established an identity.

The band, which will play at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, seemed to be caught in a situation where it was half-rock and half-pop. It suffered from lack of direction in its writing. But since the departure of Peter Boynton, the writing responsibility has fallen directly upon Cochrane and he's delighted.

The new album, *Neruda*, is partly a tribute to Pablo Neruda, a South American poet who had the strength to turn down a governmental posting with Salvadore Allende's Chilean government.

It is to Cochrane's credit that he can relate to a poet's inspiration and yet manufacture an album which has the depth, diversity and enough commercial air to make it highly acceptable with young audiences. There's intelligence in his lyrics.

"Throughout our music, there has always been an undercurrent of social consciousness," admits Cochrane. "In rock and roll, I don't think we should be afraid to make statements or take a stand. From now on, I want Red Rider to be respected as a band that makes good music."