

# Hey, Mr. Tambourine Man

By MICHAEL GILTZ

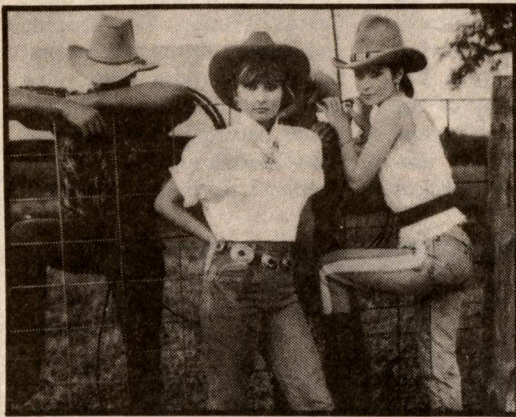
One of rock music's most prophetic songwriters comes to our neck of the woods this Saturday night. Bob Dylan, an inspiration to many musicians since his rise to fame two decades ago, will perform at the O'Connell Center with opening act Sweethearts of the Rodeo. Tickets are \$16.50 for students (\$17.50 for the public) and the show begins at 8.

His current tour marks yet another commercial resurgence for Dylan. Mind you, few people are buying his albums (*Down In The Groove* is dying quickly after only a few weeks on the charts), but Mr. Zimmerman is proving quite a draw on the concert scene.

His reignited popularity began when Dylan teamed up with the Grateful Dead for arena shows, a package that proved to be one of the top-grossing acts during the last several years. Reviewers even

noted that Dylan — who has been a notoriously lackluster performer for the last decade or so — was putting on a strong — even inspired — show.

After the Grateful Dead went off on their own, Dylan picked up The Alarm as a back-up band. Now he's hooked-up with an ad-hoc assemblage of veteran musicians, who will be supporting him this weekend in the O'Dome. The



**SWEETHEARTS OF THE RODEO**

quality of Dylan's performance on any given night is a toss-up, but it is Dylan, a fact not so obvious on his recent albums.

*Down In The Groove*, his latest release, is a shoddy affair, poor by anyone's standards, not just Dylan's. That is true of almost everything he's released since the mid-'70s classic, *Blood On The Tracks*. A high point recently was *Infidels*, but other than *Empire Burlesque*, which received better reviews than it deserved, nothing he has produced has merited any serious critical or commercial attention.

But who cares? Bob Dylan is second only to the Beatles and Elvis in importance, and his mystique is worthy of his stature. Maybe his show won't be a revelation, but a mediocre performance of "Like A Rolling Stone" is better than a great performance of almost anything else. Miss a chance to see Bob Dylan and you miss a chance to see history.

