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Browne troupe brings act to Eugene

Musicians scold press for nuclear coverage

By JEFF BAKER
Of the Emerald

It's the water, and a whole lot more.

Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt and the other Water for Life musicians showed up at a McArthur Court press conference Monday afternoon wanting to talk about water shortages and nuclear power, but they ended up lecturing the assembled journalists on what to ask.

Indian activist John Trudell exploded after four questions, criticizing the press for "staying in the safe area. It seems like, somebody comes ahead of us handing out questions to the press to ask."

Trudell said there seemed to be doubt cast "about the money, about our intentions with the money."

Jackson Browne supported the legitimacy of asking where the money raised at Monday's concert would be distributed, but chastised the press for not dealing with issues.

"I actually wasn't going to go to this one (press conference), because I'm tired of being a novelty, some kind of human interest story on page 43 or in the music section. We're dealing with issues here.

"When we raise money publicly, we spend it publicly."

Concert receipts will be distributed to Citizens for Safe Energy, the Pacific Northwest Research Center, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Citizens Active for Peace, Nuclear Questions, the Non Violent Tactics Development Project, the Native American Issues Committee and the Uranium Resistance Coalition.

Each organization will receive "five or six thousand dollars each," said Pacific Alliance member Tom Campbell.

Raitt told the journalists, "You guys have a responsibility to tell people the truth about nuclear power, not just put it on page 26 when there's a leak.

"Don't wait until there's an accident. Pay attention and don't leave it up to the Reagan people to let you know what's happening."

Browne was asked about people camping out and forming long lines before concert tickets went on sale. It was pointed out that most people were ignorant of nuclear issues and were only interested in seeing Browne.

"It's not really surprising that people come to a concert for the music. What they're going to get will be quite a bit more than an ordinary concert," he said.

"Talking about music is like singing about football."

Browne admitted the paradox "that we're here to do a concert because we can gather people together in the community and we can raise money.

"I'm a human being who lives on this earth with everybody else, and it's my duty to do whatever I can. In my case it happens to be to give a concert."

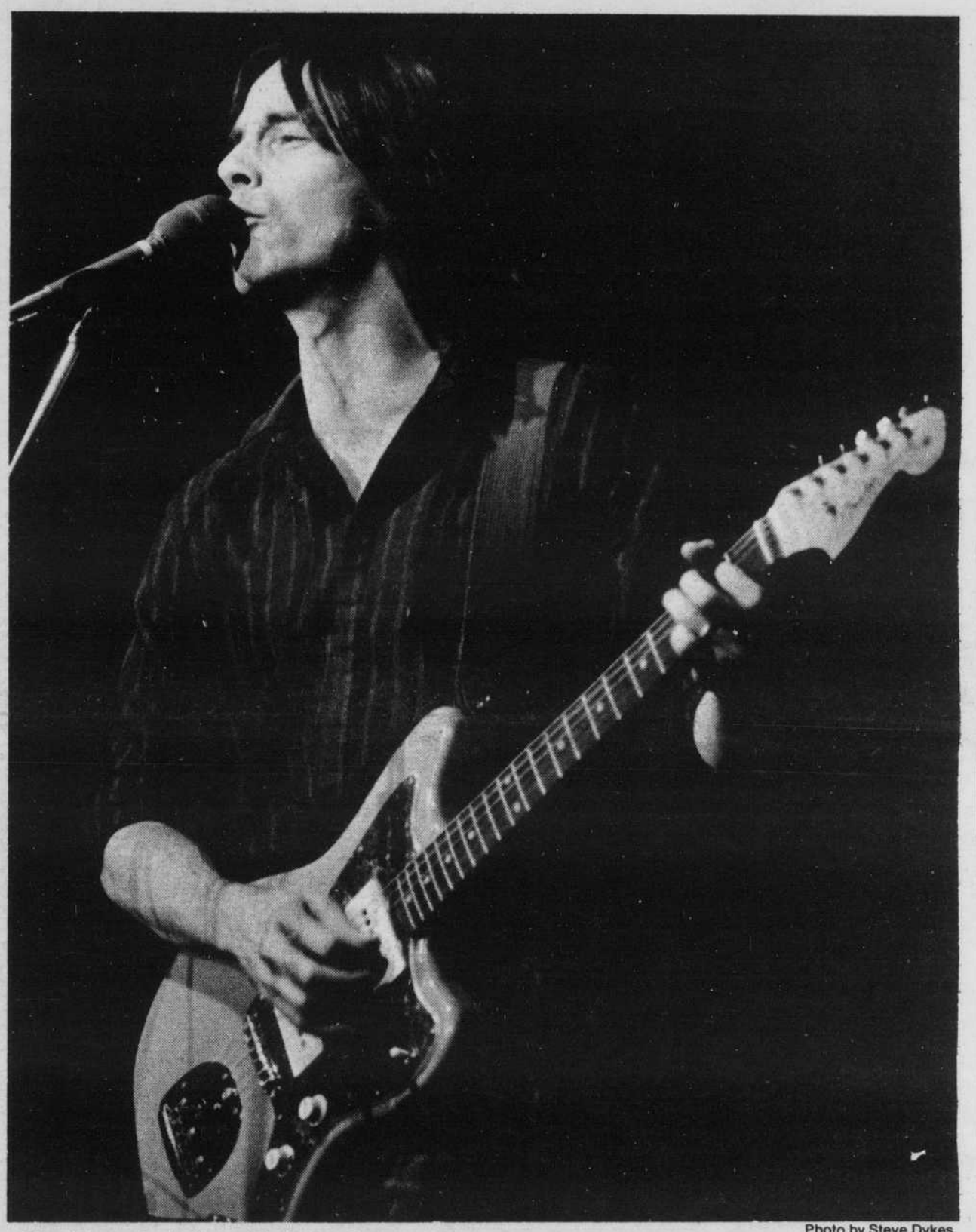
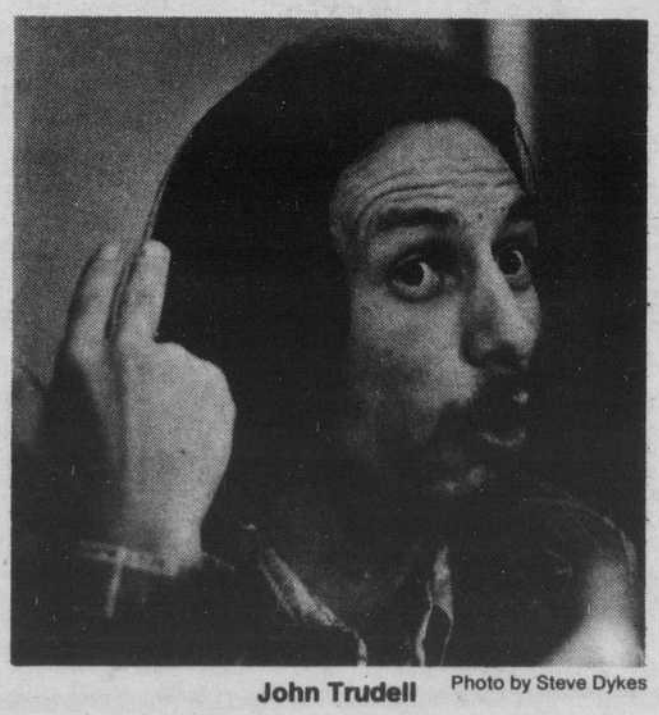


Photo by Steve Dykes

After his confrontation with the local press and an afternoon sound check, Jackson Browne wowed an enthusiastic crowd at his sold-out concert Monday night.

Trudell: law system 'programs' disinterest



John Trudell Photo by Steve Dykes

By HARRY ESTEVE
Of the Emerald

The political activism of the past two decades is dead, and young lawyers are doing little to bring it back, an American Indian Movement activist told about 60 University students Monday afternoon.

Speaking at the University law school before a scheduled appearance at the Jackson Browne benefit concert, John Trudell attacked the law education system, saying it "programs" students away from political activism, especially when minority rights are at issue.

Law students forget their initial concerns and principles in the race to be successful, highly paid lawyers, Trudell said.

"Law schools program Indian law students that they are worth $15,000 or $20,000. The Indian communities who really need those lawyers can't afford that.

"They (the law schools) have the student lawyer right under their thumbs."

Law students who expressed interest in Trudell's several legal battles said they couldn't help because they were afraid it would hurt their chances of passing their bar exams, Trudell said.

"I can understand that," he said, "but once they are out they need to keep their sense of direction."

Attacking the entire U.S. legal system, Trudell said Congress violated the constitutional provisions about treaties every time it passed a law concerning Indians.

The Constitution is also violated every time an Indian is tried in any court other than a tribal court, he said.

"I don't believe there is any law in America," he said, "I believe there are rules. The rich, and the people who control the economics of the country, control the rules."

Trudell spent the last 15 minutes of his hour-long talk accusing the nuclear power industry of trying to make the world dependent on nuclear energy.

"Only they (large corporations) have the capability to develop nuclear energy," he said. "The world will have to depend on the small majority who control it.

"Nuclear energy is just going to continue the racist, sexist, ruling class control over the country."