

Fred Small Performs At Coffeehouse

by Noah Bartolucci

A fortunate Guilford assemblage saw Fred Small work magic at the November 12th coffeehouse. In true folk-music style Small charmed the audience with his guitar, voice, and insightful celebration of humanity battling injustice.

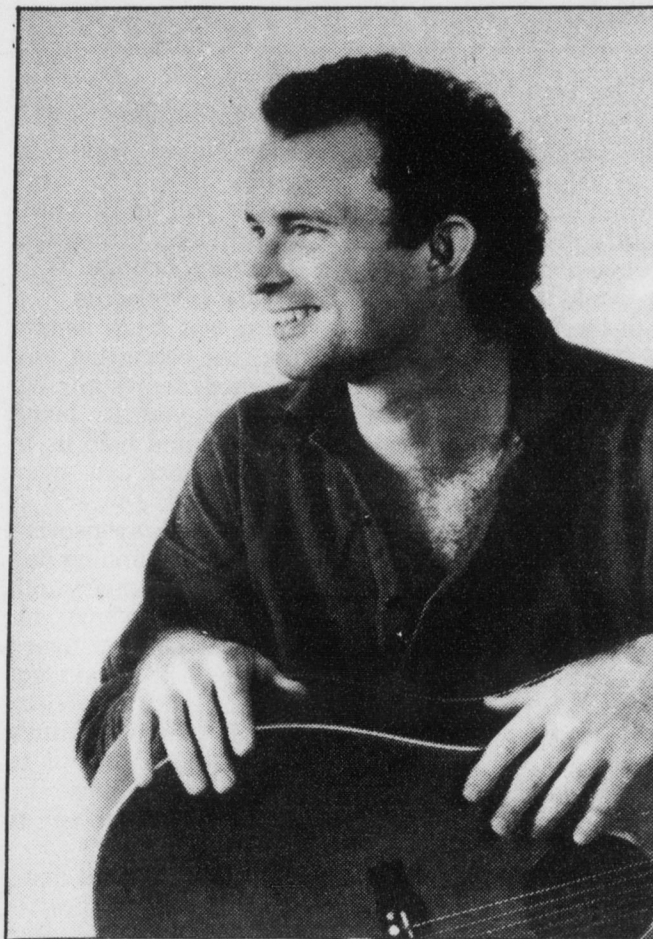
Small's two sets included "Big Italian Rose," a tune which cleverly complains about "slender models and their Fifth Avenue clothes," "The Hugging Song" which is about a social worker fired for hugging, and a tribute to the Nex Perce' Indians.

As an ex-lawyer, Small reversed the path of the late-sixties liberal. He graduated from Taft — a prestigious New England preparatory school — and went on to earn Phi Beta Kappa at Yale University. His law degree and masters in natural resources policy left him less than content, so he began his transition into the world of music. He wrote his first song in 1974, and in 1980 he left his position as a law attorney to pursue a full-time career in music.

Small's work mirrors the sixties' folk boom, yet his statements are less

opinionated and more logical than the passionate, yet vague messages of that previous generation. Small's songwriting intertwines personal and political themes which tell stories, each with a distinct social point. A good example of Small's contrasting talent is his song "The Peace Dragon," which tells of a wyvern with an appetite for armaments.

Fred Small appears nationally at coffee-houses, folk festivals, benefit concerts, colleges, schools, conferences, and summer camps. Remaining stops on Small's current tour include McDibb's in Asheville, two Unitarian churches — one in Winston-Salem and one in Atlanta, Quincy's in Athens Georgia, as well as The Down Home Pickin' Parlor in Johnson City, Tennessee.



Fred Small

Photo: Susan Wilson

(con't from pg. 7)

12:40 - Music switches back to top 40 dance tracks, music gets raunchy.

12:41 - Second girl says she loves me.

12:45 - Mary Ann: "Having a good time yah yaa waa hoo." Krista: "I like dancing above a furniture warehouse." Robert: "It's great it's awesome, having a good time, still waiting for Serendipity."

12:50 - Laura: "I haven't heard much of this music before, but I guess I can get into it."

12:55 - Dave: "Let's blow this joint."

12:57 - Lights come on, dance is over.

1:00 - Tim: "It was not as good as a Dead concert."

1:07 - Headed back to room, music still buzzing in my ear, cops are everywhere.

1:10 - Back in hotel room, people slowly begin to file back to the hotel, after parties begin.

1:45 - Leave for home.

2:00 - Go to after party near school.

2:45 - Very tired.

3:00 - Go to bed.

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