



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER, PAUL AND MARY  
**THE PERFORMANCE OF Peter, Paul and Mary Friday at the Lied Center included a tribute to John Denver, who wrote the song "Leaving on a Jet Plane."**

# Trio treats audience to tribute

BY LANE HICKENBOTTOM  
 Music Critic

## Concert Review

Peter, Paul and Mary are far from the most talented group ever to have performed at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

But don't tell fans that, because when the trio took the stage Friday night, it put on the most well-taken performance the Lied Center will see this year.

Don't think they don't have talent; they do. But instrumental and voice skills are not the characteristics that make this band great.

Peter, Paul and Mary have heart. Their utter love for what they do shines through the music in a way that doesn't work for other groups. And the audience ate it up, leaving no question why the show was sold out several months in advance.

Perhaps the audience enjoyed

the show because the three - Peter Yarrow, Noel Paul Stookey and Mary Travers - reminded the suit-and-dress-clad audience of a day when they were singing the very same folk music around a campfire with friends while puffin' some of their own magic dragon.

Audience inclusion was as pertinent to the performance as the instruments were. All in attendance had a chance to sing along, and most did during songs like "Puff, The Magic Dragon," and "Blowin' In The Wind."

For many audience members, the most touching part they walked away with from the concert may have been a tribute to the late John Denver. After telling an anecdote about a young boy with blond hair

and glasses "who used words like 'golly' and 'farout' and meant them" and brought the group a really great song, Travers said goodbye to Denver. The trio then sang Denver's "Leaving On A Jet Plane," a song it has been singing for about 30 years.

Once again audience members sang along, several of them wiping tears from their eyes. For many Lincoln residents, it was as close to a Denver memorial service that they would get to - much-needed closure to the life of another folk great.

Other than the one good cry, Peter, Paul and Mary's songs are very happy and uplifting. And even though Peter and Paul's heads are now bald, much like the heads of many of the audience members, the Friday-night folk concert reminded the crowd of good times back when hair was longer and more plentiful.

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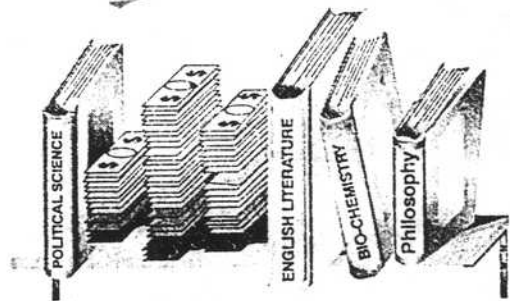
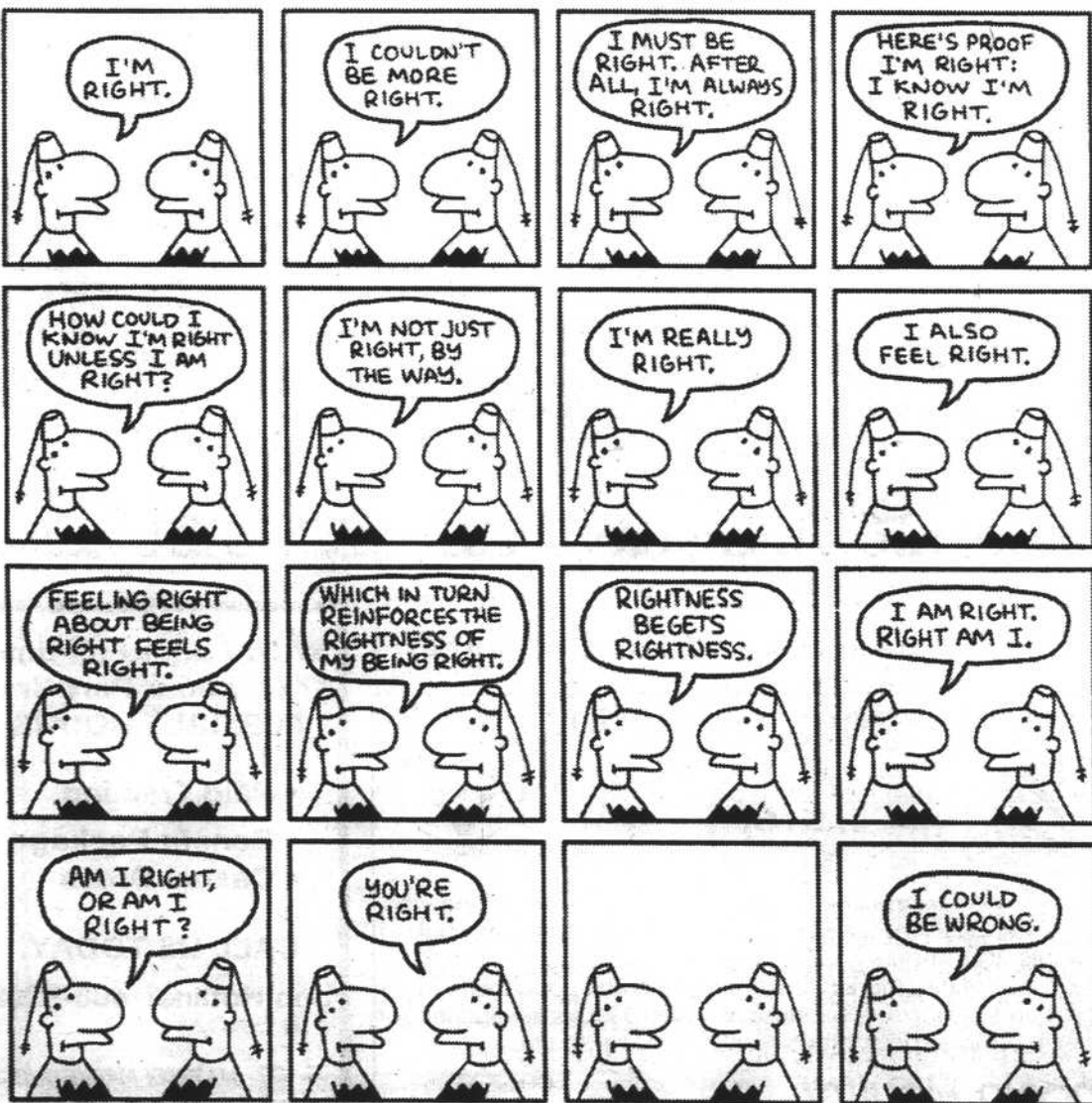
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