

Neil Young's *Freedom* mourns a wasted decade

by Robb Frederick
Entertainment Editor

Considering the recent political upheaval in Eastern Europe, Neil Young's titling of his latest release *Freedom* seems quite appropriate. The diverse material found on the disc, however, focuses more on celebrating Young's experimentation with varying musical styles.

The tracks presented on *Freedom* touch upon each area represented in the spectrum of popular music, but the work is united by an underlying theme Young relentlessly pursues— a great dissatisfaction regarding the accomplishments and setbacks of the last decade.

The subject matter is gloomy and depressing, and Young's harrowing vocals leave listeners battered and exhausted.

Young's most effective commentary appears in the song "Rockin' in the Free World," which he presents in two versions that serve as bookends for the remainder of the release.

Like the classic "My My, Hey Hey," which propelled the 1979 *Rust Never Sleeps*, "Rockin' in the Free World" showcases the lyrical mastery and performance versatility which has allowed Young to remain such a prominent musician.

On the acoustic version, Young returns to the glory days of his *Rust Never Sleeps* tour as he takes the stage with only his guitar and harmonica. The result is an intimate live performance that forewarns listeners to Young's bitter dissatisfaction with the current state of inner-city life.

This anthem-like composition returns in an electrified form to close *Freedom*. Young's searing guitar drowns out his harsh lyrics, which describe the drug-infested environment of inner-city life.

The revised "Rockin' in the Free World" also adds a third verse to the song, as Young relates the individual plight of the homeless to the rest of the world.

Throughout the remainder of *Freedom*, Young continues to expose the sorrow of the past decade.

The lengthy "Crime in the City" documents the threats faced by a city police officer who eventually turns toward the other side of the law.

"I don't know if I can stop it /

I feel like meat on the street," he explains. "They paint my car like a target / ...I take my orders from fools / Well I play by their rules."

The brutality of life in the fast lane is revealed through Young's update of the Drifters' classic "On Broadway." As the song's central character awakens to the hardships which surround him, drug use provides a temporary escape.

The song "No More" details the helplessness of a desperate drug abuser who can no longer sustain his high.

On "Too Far Gone," Young mourns a relationship destroyed by an ever-present drug-induced haze.

Although the bulk of *Freedom* focuses on the negative aspects of modern life, the disc also contains a few promising moments.


The track "Someday" defines Young's respectable approach to writing ballads. The song interrupts *Freedom*'s gloomy spirit by providing a glimpse of hope for the future.

"Hangin' on a Limb," a duet with Linda Ronstadt, commends a couple's determination to continue with a relationship that has experienced great difficulties.

This diverse material creates a welcome return for Young, whose career has continued to degenerate over recent years.

To present a work this powerful, he has collected numerous unused compositions from his earlier days. "Don't Cry" and "Eldorado" appeared on a successful EP released last year in Japan and Australia. Several tracks, including "Ways of Love" and "Too Far Gone," were written during the mid-seventies, when Young's career reached its peak.

Although this material could have been used to improve Young's other solo works, its appearance here provides a solid, forceful backbone for the bitter statements behind *Freedom*.





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45 Sowed
47 Encountered
49 Sluggish
50 Make ready
54 Contort
57 Vast age
58 Slogan
60 Regret
61 Marry
62 Guide
63 Conducted

5 Switch position
6 Sum up
7 Additional
8 Hits hard: slang
9 Simian

The
Weekly
Crossword
Puzzle

puzzle answers on page 8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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10 Sailor: colloq.
11 Attempt
16 Strike
18 Strokes
20 Pig's nose
22 Lift
23 Go in
24 Strip of leather
26 Devoured
27 Hindu queen
28 Walk on
31 Trades for money
34 Weight of India
36 House seller
39 Frolic
41 Winter precipitation
44 Paper measure: pl.
46 Spin
48 Jog
50 Church bench
51 Fish eggs
52 Goal
53 French for "summer"
55 Petition
56 Spread for drying
59 Symbol for tellurium

Time is running out

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WINTERFEST '90

ACTIVITIES

Friday, February 2 - Saturday, February 3

Friday, February 2, 1990

- Free-throw Competition (first round) 8:00 p.m.
- Pictionary Competition 9:00 p.m.
- SPC Movie: *Dead Poets Society* 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 3, 1990

- Human Dog Sled Races 9:00 a.m.
- Snow Softball 10:00 a.m.
- Tube Races 12:00 noon
- Snow Soccer 2:00 p.m.
- Free-throw Competition (finals) Half-time of Women's Basketball Game
- Twister Competition Half-time of Men's Basketball Game
- Snow Ball Semi-Formal Dance 10:00 p.m. (Awards Ceremony at midnight)

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Winter Garden, Reed
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**For more information contact the
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