

# NAMES IN THE NEWS

Time for an interlude with one of Canada's best-known gifts to the world of music — Joni Mitchell. Tell us, Joni, why do your songs often deal with loneliness?

I suppose people have always been lonely but this, I think, is an especially lonely time to live in. So many people are valueless or confused. I know a lot of guilty people who are living a very open kind of free life who don't really believe that what they're doing is right."

Right, Joni. Why does this happen?

"Things change so rapidly. Relationships don't seem to have any longevity. Occasionally you see people who have been together for six or seven, maybe 12 years, but for the most part people drift in and out of relationships continually. There isn't a lot of commitment to anything; it's a disposable society."

Are you lonely?

"I don't have a very large circle of friends. But there's other kinds of loneliness which are very beautiful. Like sometimes I go up to my land in British Columbia and spend time alone in the country surrounded by the beauty of natural things. There's a romance which accompanies it, so you don't feel self-pity."

"In the city, when you're surrounded by people who are continually interacting, the loneliness makes you feel like you've sinned. All around you you see lovers or families and you're alone, and you think: Why? What did I do to deserve this? That's why I think the cities are much lonelier than the country."

Psst! Dirk Bogarde's real name is Derek Julius Gaspard Ulrich Noven van den Bogaerde. Pass it on.

What ever became of . . .

Leni Riefenstahl. Her name was frequently linked in the



**WHY IS THERE SO MUCH LONELINESS IN THE WORLD, JONI MITCHELL?**  
"There isn't a lot of commitment to anything; it's a disposable society"

headlines with an important historical figure back in the 1930s and 40s, and she's spent the rest of her life trying to live it down. Her friend, you see, was Adolf Hitler.

Riefenstahl, a Berlin plumber's daughter who became a talented and ambitious actress, shot to world prominence when she turned her hand to directing in the early 30s, caught the eye of the Nazi dictator, and was commissioned to produce a documentary on the 1934 Nuremberg Rally.

Her brilliant and artistic film, *The Triumph of the Will*, glorified the Nazis, and is considered a classic propaganda film to this day. Two years later, she scored another inter-

national coup with her innovative and inspiring documentary on the 1936 Olympic Games, which was hailed as a landmark in sports cinematography.

However, her reputation as Hitler's favorite film-maker was to cost her dearly. After the war, she was tried and cleared twice by de-Nazification courts, but her work became taboo, even though she won 50 libel suits against those who claimed she had romantic links with Hitler or owed her success

to political rather than artistic reasons.

Nowadays, at age 74, the well-preserved Miss Riefenstahl lives in Munich, where she's managed to shake off a good deal of her notoriety through years of ceaseless photographic adventures for major European publications (including the *London Times*) and a critically-acclaimed book about vanishing native life in Africa.

How does she feel about her infamous patron now?

"Hitler was a great show master," says the vivacious divorcee, "and when my documentaries captured the mood of his gigantic shows, I shouldn't be blamed for it."

— GEORGE GAMESTER



LENI