

## Joni Mitchell much more than just a singer

Joni Mitchell, backed by the L.A. Express, played to a packed house at the Memorial Coliseum in Tuscaloosa Sunday evening.

Simply but dramatically costumed, she used a backdrop to create an effective stage setting in the big arena. However it blocked the view of many who had come to see as well as hear her.

Joni's reputation is firmly established, but her performance demonstrated that she has retained a healthy respect for her audience's expectations.

To those who attend her concerts and hear her records, she is more than a singer and a songwriter. She is some kind of a high priestess, not to be vilified. Indeed she is one of the performers lucky enough to have cultivated an audience intent on absorbing new material as well as hearing old favorites.

What doubts may once have been raised about the suitability of the L.A. Express' jazz-oriented arrangements to Joni's songs have been expelled. The band served to add color and also to bring out a fuller voice from Joni. Her playing is direct and evocative, her voice excellent, especially when she roams into the high notes.

Joni's range is expanding and the smoothness now rivals that of Judy Collins. Her solo set created an incredibly high emotional climate.

Like a fine jazz singer, in fact by subtle alterations in her rhythms and phrasing, she made each song seem fresh, the interpretations newly thought out. Her new lyrics communicate on a very intense level.

Sunday night she concentrated on more new things than old, although there was the obligatory "Big Yellow Taxi" and a beautiful version of "For Free."

Before the evening ended, Joni had taken to piano and guitar, as well as performing solo, and charmed her audience.

The L.A. Express opened the show

that \$2 million for sewers is inadequate

## New council member sworn in at Hoover

A new Hoover City Council member was sworn in Monday night to fill the vacancy left when John W. Hodnett became mayor.

George M. Neal, a Hoover resident for 14 years and a superintendent at U.S. Steel's Fairfield Works, was appointed by council to fill the seat.

Hodnett is finishing the term of the late O.E. Braddock.

In other action, council raised the salaries of mayor and council effective after October.

The mayor will receive \$7,200 a year, or \$600 a month over the \$250 a month which he presently makes. Council members will be paid \$2,100 a year, or \$175 instead of the present \$80 a month.

Three persons were appointed to the Community Development Area Council. They are Hubert Rawson, Marshall Gaskins and Mrs. Walter Anderson.

Councilman W. Olan Wiginton reported that the Chapel Road fire hall should be opened in about a month.

with a strong instrumental set and was impressive in a style that crossed many contemporary influences. One of its highlights was an extended drum solo.

—GENE BUTTS

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