

September 10, 1979
1837 Panorama Drive
Arcata, CA 95521

Chick Montgomery, Editor
Agondonter
Box 563
Los Angeles, CA 90053

Dear Chick,

I wish to submit the attached for consideration
for inclusion in the Agondonter. It is something
that I wish to share.

Thanks.

Peace & Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob".

Bob Hunt

SLOW TRAIN COMING by Bob Dylan, Columbia Records (1979)

One night last August, I had a vivid dream in which I opened a magazine and read the words to a new song by Bob Dylan called "Bob Dylan's Prayer". When I awoke, I recalled the experience and the sight of the lyrics printed in italics but not the actual words. In less than a month's time, something even better than my dream came true when I heard Dylan's new album, "Slow Train Coming". For loyal Dylan listeners, those who have stayed with him through thick and thin, who have never wavered in their support, who have heard the beauty as well as the poignancy in his every creation and who have from the beginning found joy in the everpresent religious element of his work, these new Dylan songs represent a gift to cherish and an occasion for joyous celebration. For all others who hear them, they may be a revelation and, possibly, an inspiration. The songs and Dylan's rendering of them contain truth, beauty and goodness; they are in a musical and lyrical class of their own. Jann Wenner, the editor-publisher and one of the founders of "Rolling Stone" magazine, which has treated Bob Dylan's work erratically over the years, chose to write what must be the first major media review of the album in the issue of September 20, 1979. Wenner characterizes the work on "Slow Train Coming" as "an awesome, sudden stroke of transcendent and cohesive vision".

I believe that Bob Dylan has earned and maintained the credibility to deserve a fair hearing. Here is a man who has remained faithful to his calling and is sharing the fruits of a spiritual quest. Give an attentive ear to "Slow Train Coming", listening to each song

several times as the words become clear and the melodies infectious. Pay close attention to how Dylan uses his expressive voice that conveys depth of understanding and timeless wisdom. Wenner, at the conclusion of his review, makes the point well when he writes: "Bob Dylan is the greatest singer of our times. No one is better. No one, in objective fact, is even very close. His versatility and vocal skills are unmatched. His resonance and feeling are beyond those of any of his contemporaries. More than his ability with words, and more than his insight, his voice is God's greatest gift to him." Over the years, I have heard many people say that they admired Dylan's work but did not care for the sound of his voice. With this new album, all I can say is that he should be given another chance.

I have never doubted that the Dylan magic that has touched so many for so long was basically spiritual in nature. Many of his followers would not have acknowledged this and may not still; but the depth of Dylan's influence and the clarity of his vision, while achieving considerable intellectual and emotional impact, has always surpassed mere material concerns. When asked about the religious aspect of this new album, Dylan replied, "All my albums have contained religious overtones..get the first one." In 1970, Princeton University bestowed upon Dylan an honorary doctor's degree in music, noting that his "good works" were "deservedly worthy of the highest public honors". In that same year, an excellent article, "Bob Dylan and the Music of Salvation" by Stephen Goldberg, appeared in "Saturday Review of Literature". Goldberg wrote: "[Dylan's] relevance is that, in a world which has lost

faith that it is infused with godliness, he sings of a transcendent reality that makes it all make sense again".

In a 1978 interview, Dylan responded to a question about love with the statement, "Love comes from the Lord...it keeps all of us going. If you want it, you got it." When asked, "What's your idea of love?", after a pause, Dylan replied, "Love like a driving wheel. That's my idea of love."

Bob Hunt
9/11/79