The second triple-bill of late April graced the Orpheum with Little Feat, Bonnie Raitt, and Paul Butterfield's Better Days; the result was a musically unified evening that ranks among the best concerts so far in 1973. Yet, as with the Newman-Mull-Denny gig, the first two acts stole the show.

Hollywood's Little Feat, led by Lowell George, turned in a fast-paced, high-energy, very tight set. Things didn't jell into midway through their performance, but from then on, it was torrid. After Little Feat's power-drenched climax, a very strung out Bonnie Raitt, with resident bassist Freebo in tow, took the stage. Her parcel of tunes was gorgeous, adequately displaying her abilities — vocally, on guitar, and in choosing material. Whether playing alone, with only bass, or with various members of her current studio band, Little Feat, Ms. Raitt was smooth and strong. Better Days are an extremely able grouping, but after the polished appeal of Bonnie Raitt and the electricity of Little Feat, it was all denouement.

Starting off the month of May was yet another three-act bonanza, at the Boston Garden, but this time around, the quality varied greatly among the groups. Starting the night were Jo Jo Gunne, who rank as one of the best American rock bands, if not the best. But the sound system reinforced the group's noisy lack of organization, and the result was far below the level of their set of about a year ago, as first act before Lee Michaels, when they were simply great.

The Doobie Brothers followed with their patented speedy, country-ish pop/rock. Despite the decibels, the only word to describe them would be boring. But then, the Faces lurched on stage, and with that same lurching looseness, played better than I had ever heard them do before (in four previous concerts). Rod Stewart has combined bits of Marcel Marceau and Rudolph Nureyev into his theatricality, despite the weakness of some of the Faces' material (which predominated at the Garden), a concert by Stewart and friends remains one of the most entertaining in all of rock.