Both sides of the record

To the Editor:

It is a source of child-like wonder to us that a critic so perceptive as Reddy Teddy could ignore the dynamic and electric performance of Patti Smith.

His vitriol against Sparks, however, shows an obvious misunderstanding of the subtleties of Patti Smith's artistry. His holy and bothered attack on Sparks' high school band brand of rock and roll misses the mark.

Specifically, we were impressed by the powerful audience reaction to Miss Smith's part of the evening. The "dynamic free-form" performance that followed was an exercise in ineptitude.

I might add that my sample of Sparks' recorded work consists of two people whose banality of content is exceeded only by their complete ineptitude in basic musical skills. The "powerful audience reaction" to Miss Smith's part of the evening consisted of two people behind me who laughed derisively through her entire performance.

In conclusion, you state that Spark's performance "will be recognized long after Sparks, this week's review, and Mr. [sic] Perry's sour face are forgotten." I agree with you on this point. Good things shrivel in memory quickly. I will remember Patti Smith forever.

Richard Dean

Anthony Rodrigues

December 7, 1976

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