

Buffett is popular at Ophelia's

By WILLIAM HUCKEL

A young Nashville folk gypsy, Jimmy Buffett, picked and plucked at the strings of his guitar and the hearts of a hushed crowd at Crazy Ophelia's last night.

Appearing as the headliner at the local coffeehouse, Buffett will hold the stage there evenings through Saturday night. His contemporary sound and song — a little country, a little folk, a dash of rock and blues — carried through two sets and more than amused the cabaret's audience.

The first set included 10 songs (he wrote about eight of them) and consistently pleased the people who were there. He sang about going to the Greyhound Station to travel and he sang about returning to the mountains of Virginia. He sang a bawdy song about getting drunk and a tongue-in-cheek song about a filling station hold-up.

The two most appreciated songs were "God's own Drunk" by Lord Buckley and "Who's Going To Steal the Peanut Butter" which Buffett wrote. The latter was a song about shoplifting from supermarkets that was so amusingly and appealing flip that it is possible to believe that the managers of Fausto's or Gulfstream might enjoy it.

Buffett's second set was nothing like the first. Ophelia's was jammed and the air was filled with anticipation as he lit into a series of songs — some that he's written here in Key West — all pulling the audience closer and closer to him. He wrapped up the evening with "All Right" with the clients stomping and clapping right along.

A spokesman for this generation, Buffett is basically a poet, tying lyrics to haunting melodies. This guy made everyone feel like one big, happy family.