D046.su FAIRFAX, 22 FEBRUARY 1998

SOUND An okay but less than stellar audience tape that picks up the between-song whoops and hollers (the worst of which are painfully piercing) rather better than Tony's bass, such that most electric numbers come with a muddy, murky bottom end that disappoints the ear. As often, the acoustics fare rather better and all of them are canny.

IMAGE The screenshots look uniformly fine. Sadly, the film we see yo-yos back and forth between the level of excellence suggested there and various problems, typified by erratic camerawork (I'm surprised author Ace didn't apply rather more of his magic patches), overly dark passages and the occasional standing or passing fan - and Bob's white hat, of course, doesn't help. Still, taken from a mostly unobstructed left side perch, there are frequent sustained passages of impressively handsome footage too - overall, indeed, much more that pleases than otherwise. After its auspicious start, though, you leave this film with the restless hungry feeling that it's a good one that could have been great. (But well done to both tapers anyway - for where would we all be without you?)

RUNNING TIME 92:40, complete show.

PERFORMANCE Business-like. Three weeks into February and we find Bob and his band playing the last date of this year's first 21-stop tour to a half-empty college basketball arena. Such is the working musician's life.

HIGHLIGHTS A gorgeous Simple Twist (shame about the camera), McTell, Me Babe.

COMMENT A harp-free performance. He stopped playing after his mid-'97 hospital visit. When did it first re-appear?

THANKS Black Cat

STARS Just about enough here to merit a four (though, for better from this tour, try D126.su instead).