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**Chris Hillman**

# Country rocker awaits answers

By **WINNIE BONELLI**

Dispatch Entertainment Writer

Country rocker Chris Hillman is playing a waiting game. October will provide the answers. For starters, his current group, The Desert Rose Band, has been nominated for Top Vocal Group of the Year by the Country Music Association, with the winner to be announced in Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 8.

For more suspense, as co-founding member of The Byrds, Hillman will find out whether the legendary rock group will be among this year's inductees into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame.

Refreshing memories, the seminal folk-rock band gave the world such classics as "So You Want to Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star," which Hillman co-wrote, "Turn, Turn, Turn," "Eight Miles High" and the Bob Dylan standard, "Mr. Tambourine Man."

Delivering a touch of that original magic, David Crosby and Roger McGuinn, Hillman and The Byrds reunited temporarily in February for a Roy Orbison Tribute Concert.

Turning to a newer chapter, since the release of The Desert Rose Band's self-titled debut album in 1987, the group has notched five Number One country singles — "One Step Forward," "He's Back and I'm Blue," "Summer Wind," "I Still Believe in You" and "She Don't Love Nobody," and has been twice named Touring Group of the Year by the Academy of Country Music.

More recently, The Desert Rose Band released the third single,



**CHRIS HILLMAN**  
He'll get answers in October

"The Story Of Love," from its current effort, "Pages of Life."

Hillman agrees country music always has been the white man's blues and that songs about real life are what set country music apart. "Writing these kinds of songs is never intentional. If you sit down to write a song about the insurmountable problems of a relationship or the perils of drugs, it becomes contrived. So I just try to write about what's on my mind and hope that it reflects what other people are thinking too."

"Where we go from here is just a matter of a continuing evolution. As long as we can maintain our parameters: keep making music that matters and continue growing, it'll be fine."

So, for Hillman it's business as usual as he waits for next month's arrival.