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Time Out New York / Issue 582: November 23–29, 2006

### Album review

## Steve Goodman

### Live at the Earl of Old Town (Red Pajamas)

★★★★★

The late Steve Goodman spent much of his career battling leukemia, but his sense of humor never seemed to flag. This recently excavated live set from 1978 finds the singer-songwriter ruminating on tow-truck-driving thugs and three-legged men. It's an intimate, easygoing show: Goodman was apparently more comfortable onstage than the average man is watching television in his boxer shorts. What's most striking, however, is the Chicago regionalism that dominates the album, from casual tales of urban corruption to Goodman's naively confident musings on the Cubs. In today's flattened cultural climate, such provincial pride seems like a poignant anachronism. — *Jay Ruttenberg*



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