

the music bag

Rock Song Asks Difficult Questions

By "THE MISSION"

(Creator of "Desco-Teach")

"Easy to Be Hard," in the recording by Three Dog Night and on the soundtrack of the rock musical, "Hair," ponders the thought, "How can people be so heartless?" If art lies in simplicity, then there is real art in this song's question.

It is a rare song. It is a public confession from a young person, an admission of need: "How about a needing friend? I need a friend."

It's been a common practice to depict the "hippie thing"—the "youth revolution"—as a fanciful flight from worry, a colorful, psychedelic trip into a magic land of Nirvana. But in fact, few young "drop-outs" have attempted to make their lives an escape from drudgery. Instead, most have tried to find in their new lives a way to cope better with the trials that life inevitably brings.

But, in their innocence perhaps, they believe that the world should not be all sorrow and tribulation. Like children, they figure that ice cream and parties have an important place in life. And if they do believe that life can sometimes be cruel, yet they still cannot understand how people can be capable of cruelty, too.

When they do meet cruelty, then, in living humans, they can be nothing but thunder-struck: "How can people have no feelings? How can they ignore their friends?"

The song seems to imply that children, after all, can grow up too fast. It seems to say that it's a sad day when a child finally accepts it as inevitable that his parents must always argue. It's a sad day when small Tommy for-

gets to wonder why he was never allowed to play with little Black Eldridge. It's a bleak day when a "love child" bursts out with the dilemma that has been crushing the heart: "How can people be so cruel?"

"Easy to Be Hard" is a difficult song to accept. It is hard to sit comfortably before such a barrage of curious questions. It is natural to try to stop such challenging by attempting to silence the challenger. (It's said that the one who coined the slogan, "Curiosity killed the cat," was actually a beleaguered mouse!)

But the singer, in his questioning, is pointing an accusing finger in many directions, especially at "people who care about evil and social injustice." He asks, "Do you only care about the bleeding crowd? How about a needing friend?"

"Easy to Be Hard" challenges a way of life many people accept as natural, a way of life that condones harshness, that permits mercilessness, that thrives on cruelty. "Easy to Be Hard" doesn't try to reason with this life-style, for reason itself is often to justify the unjustifiable.

The fact that a song like "Easy to Be Hard" speaks for a whole generation should be a source of wonderment to anyone outside of that generation. It should also be a source of reflection and re-evaluation for power and energy are being created from new bases.

This power and energy will be the life blood of a new generation, and for anyone who wants to understand the future a study of the current outlook is essential. (Catholic Press Features)

How can people be so heartless?
How can people be so cruel?
Easy to be hard, easy to be cold.

How can people have no feelings?
How can they ignore their friends?
Easy to be proud, easy to say no.

Especially people who care about strangers,
Who care about evil and social injustice,
Do you only care about the bleeding crowd
How about a needing friend?

How can people be so heartless?
How can people be so cruel?
Easy to give in, easy to help out.

How can people be so heartless?
How can people be so cruel?
Easy to be hard, easy to be cold.
Easy to be proud, easy to say no.

(Published by United Artists, ASCAP)

As I See It Anderson Drama ... Nice Scenery

By PAT COSTA

The case for extramarital physical love as pleaded by playwright Robert Anderson and interpreted by actors Lloyd Bridges and Shirley Jones in "Silent Night, Lonely Night" was not particularly convincing.

The teleplay, promoted as one of NBC's "premiere movies," made especially for television, is one of the few in this particular series screened by the network that I have seen.

On the whole it was a disappointing venture from the viewer's side of the screen, in part simply because the package looked so appetizing.

Neither Bridges nor Miss Jones may be a star of the first magnitude but both have proved their merits in other vehicles. Playwright Anderson has a string of credits to his name.

Yet the most conspicuous element the show had going for it was the scenery which was filmed in Amherst, Mass. in the heart of winter.

Snow-covered trees, an old New England inn replete with fireplaces, Windsor chairs, wing back sofas. Everything bore the gleaming patina of age.

Against this background Anderson told the story of a woman whose husband had been unfaithful to her and a man whose wife was in a mental institution.

On a Christmas eve both in need of love, family and companionship the two are thrown together in the inn.

Anderson's message that came through strong and clear, was that extramarital love is not always an immoral act. Rather, he tried to show that it could be an act of compassion.

Trouble was neither of his characters was attractive enough to warrant any sympathy on the part of the audience. Further complicating his conclusions was the fact that neither Bridges nor Miss Jones had the necessary depth to carry out what was intended to be emotion-laden drama.

On the positive side—three cheers for Amherst—it looks like a marvelous place to spend Christmas Eve.

"Sesame Street"—(Yes I know I talk about it every week, but I can't help myself) probably the best thing that public television has ever done, has even become a main topic of conversation at adult cocktail parties.

It is difficult for parents not to rhapsodize over something obviously of value which has their children in such a grip.

The thing, however, that tickles the adults are those major celebrities "Sesame Street" has induced to appear to recite the numbers from 1 to 10 and the alphabet.

Thus far I've caught Burt Lancaster and James Earl Jones doing the honors with a real swinging soul group adding their particular touch to the proceedings.

This past week also featured Mahalia Jackson singing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

Movies

Here is a list of motion pictures currently playing in Rochester area theaters and the ratings given them by the National Catholic Office of Motion Pictures.

With the Catholic Office ratings, we include the ratings of the Motion Picture Association: G, general; M, mature audiences; R, restricted (persons under 16 admitted only when accompanied by parents or adult guardian); X, persons under 16 not admitted.

Cinema—"Midnight Cowboy" (Adults, with reservations).

Coronet—Mae West Festival (No overall rating).

Fine Arts—"Easy Rider" (Adults, with reservations). R.

Loew's—"Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice" (Objectionable). R.

Little—"A Dream of Kings" (Adults). R.

Monroe—"Hello Dolly" (No Rating).

Panorama—"Goodbye, Mr. Chips" (General). G.

Paramount—"Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (Adults). M.

Riviera—"John and Mary" (No Rating). R.

Regent—"The Arrangement" (No Rating). X.

Stoneridge—"On Her Majesty's Secret Service" (No Rating). M.

Studio 2—"I Am Curious (Yellow)" (Condemned). X.

Stutson—"The Reivers" (No Rating). M.

Towne I—"Paint Your Wagon" (Adults). M.

Towne II—"Cactus Flower" (No Rating). M.

Waring—"101 Dalmatians" (General). G.

PARISH DANCE

Parishioners of Holy Ghost Church will stage a New Year's Eve party in the parish hall, beginning with a buffet supper at 8:30 p.m., followed by dancing until 2 a.m. and a continental breakfast. Reservations may be made with Jack O'Brien (594-9194) or Tom Tierney (594-2258).

Do You Agree?

TV All-Time Favorites Listed

Catholic Press Features

Hollywood—"Playhouse 90" heads a list of TV's all-time best series in a poll conducted among television critics by the Directors Guild of America.

"Mission: Impossible" is the only currently-produced series in the critics' list of "Television's Golden Dozen," as reported in the TV and film directors' magazine, "Action."

NCC Group To Rate Films

New York—(RNS)—The Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches will issue a newsletter beginning in January, which will provide critical evaluations of current motion pictures.

Called "Film Information," the monthly publication is being launched "because of the growing importance of motion pictures as an art form and as an influence on society, especially as a formative force in the lives of the young," according to the Rev. William F. Fore, NCC executive director.

There are 43 million members in the 33 Protestant and Orthodox Churches holding NCC membership.

Reviews in the newsletter, according to Mr. Fore, will be written from a Christian perspective by church leaders, teachers and critics actively involved in the film medium.

The top 12 series, in the order of their preference by what "Action" called "a blue-ribbon committee of critics," were:

1. "Playhouse 90," anthology dramatic series, which was "the runaway winner," according to the directors' guild.

2. "Studio One," another anthology dramatic series.

3. "The Defenders," starring E. G. Marshall and Robert Reed as a father-son team of lawyers.

4. "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," a suspense series hosted by the famed film director.

5. "U.S. Steel Hour," another anthology dramatic series.

6. "I Love Lucy," the comedy series that starred Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz.

7. "The Dick Van Dyke Show," starring Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore.

8. "Naked City," the Manhattan-based detective series that starred Horace McMahon.

9. "Mission: Impossible."

10. "You'll Never Get Rich," the comedy series better remembered by most people as "The Sgt. Bilko Show," in which Phil Silvers played an Army con artist.

11. "The Honeymooners," the original version that starred Jackie Gleason, Art Carney and Audrey Meadows.

12. "Maverick," the only Western in the "golden dozen"—that starred James Garner.

The committee of TV critics—among them were Judith Crist, Cecil Smith and

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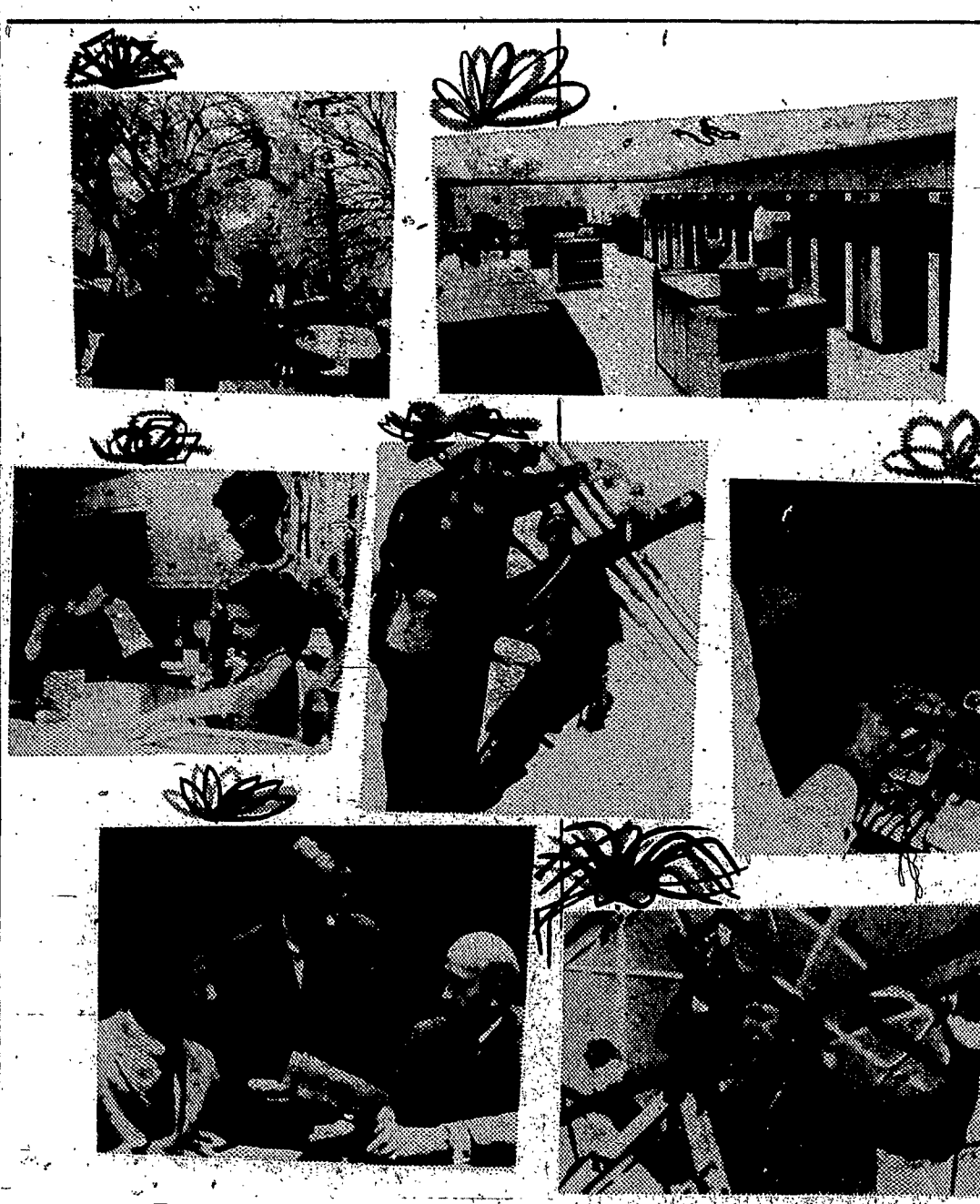
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The threshold of the new decade offers a temporary vantage point to attempt a look ahead into the next ten years. What will these years hold for us? Peace, Prosperity, Further advances in health care. These things we pray for. Technological advances will surely continue to be made. In our own industry the sixties saw the advent of nuclear power and in the seventies the sixties saw the advent of more sophisticated production and distribution of power by means of more sophisticated equipment. We will be ready to meet the challenges of the seventies. The threshold of the new decade also affords a moment to look back and to say "thank you" to the people it has been our opportunity to serve. May this be a joyous season for all of you.

Francis E. Drake, Jr., Chairman of the Board

Seasons Greetings from all of us at
RGE ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC

The

Closer Ties u

The Dutch Reformed members, declared that with the Catholic Church. The letter stated that reach—together with the the Lord Himself, wants. The letter declared is probably not as reman the Netherlands.

School Superi

Father George Elford, Indianapolis archdiocese the archdiocese board reorganize Catholic education. The board voted to grades of Catholic education which includes 39 element high schools. At the same for the high schools to rate of \$225. Figures for the low cost \$476 per student to subsidy of \$580,000. Father Elford had grades in inner-city schools, while closing parish schools.

Suit Tests Ep

Two Episcopal laymen National Episcopal Church National Committee of David Arms and Wanda to the Black Economic James Forman, who has tions from churches.

A special episcopal voted last summer to gi



Memo to Father Kie

Guardian Angels Church. It was a real treat to brate the Eucharist with school children their gift those of your CCD pupils the offertory of the Mass understandable. The food and gifts were distrib to Immaculate Conception Lucy and the House of Co in Seneca County. I guess that some would say my time could be better in relating to the might are capable of producing ter society. Yes, too often,

Confront

By JOAN ZUMMO

In considering the n of the job of a p CCD principal one can come so involved in the ministrations of religious cation programs that the son for their existence comes obscured.

If a Christian form program and its admini tor are concerned in the analysis with anything o than helping persons t themselves to the imag Christ they have missed point somewhere.

The principal must stantly remind himself it is the Christiana form of the student that is the son for all the planning meetings, all efforts and grams. A principal sh consider all aspects of a gram from a studente ed view. If an item is no the student's benefit it not belong in the prog. The students should no used to please parents, tors, or anyone else.

Student feedback is e tial. A student council rangement is a possib. The principal must be able He should not be tied down with secret duties.

The importance of teacher's role was stress last week's column, and necessity for an up to meaningful sense of a has been discussed here a times. A few words on all organization at this may show what is "be the scenes" in a success program.

Rev. Michael Conboy o Margaret Mary, gives organizational outline, u his own parish as a g Among those areas in w the principal must assum sponsibility are enroll for all grade levels, pres through high school; including sources; mate (Cents and manuals; sub tions for student and fa adult education; materi personnel; which inclu administrators; in- a general, prior admini tors, including general p administrator and prin for pre-school, elemen and junior-senior high li teachers, including past assistants, seminarians, tigious and lay from i chial schools; teaching t for grades 7-12; and su tates; student counselor one priest and one si regular, transfer "M

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