

When Waking Is A Return to Nightmares

By The Mission Singers

Who'll stop the hits of Creedence Clearwater Revival? Throughout 1969 they had eight songs in the top ten. That's one song every seven or eight weeks. Considering that an average song stays on the charts for twelve or thirteen weeks, anyone would have to admit that C. C. Revival have been pretty consistent.

Their "Who'll Stop the Rain?" is a moody, gloomy song. It's a song about a guy or a girl who wakes up and believes that the nightmare he thought he was having wasn't a dream at all but is real—that waking up is not an escape from the nightmare but a return to it.

That feeling is what this song is about.

"Clouds of mystery pourin' confusion on the ground." In the end, all our worries, all the "clouds" that darken our lives, look like a gigantic mushroom. But the "confusion on the ground" takes many forms, and all of them are sad.

One of us was visiting a family recently and saw a sixth-grade girl, Marie, writing out a sentence that she had to repeat 360 times. It looked like she was doing a punishment, just like any school kid who ever lived has had to do. But Marie told us different: "The teacher said our whole class wasn't learning any geography, so instead she would give us an E (for "excellent") if we write out a sentence 360 times."

Maybe we should let the incident speak for itself. Maybe we should swallow hard and say, "No comment." But just to think there are thousands of kids like Marie who are learning not to learn—who are being taught that the important thing is to get an E, no matter how or why they get it: just to think that makes us hear the rain falling even harder.

"Heard the singers playin', how we cheered for more. The crowd had rushed together tryin' to keep warm." That's really a great description of what a lot of people expect from their music: an answer, a comforting, warming solution. Since they can't get it anywhere else, they make a new culture and seek

'WHO'LL STOP THE RAIN?'

Long as I remember the rain's been comin' down,
Clouds of mystery pourin' confusion on the ground.
Good men through the ages tryin' to find the sun,
And I wonder, still I wonder, who'll stop the rain?

I went down Virginia seekin' shelter from the storm;
Caught up in the fable I watched the tower grow.
Five year plans and New Deals wrapped in golden chains,
And I wonder, still I wonder, who'll stop the rain?

Heard the singers playin', how we cheered for more.
The crowd had rushed together tryin' to keep warm.
Still the rain kept pourin', fallin' on my ears,
And I wonder, still I wonder, who'll stop the rain?

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refuge there. That's what Woodstock was all about, wasn't it?

But there's no simple answer, and so, "still the rain kept pourin'." Even music and the whole youth culture can't give every single solution. The movie, "Alice's Restaurant," tries to show that no one way of life can be perfect.

Arlo Guthrie finds unhappiness and injustice in the straight world, so he seeks refuge with Alice and Ray in their way of life. But in the end, Arlo finally realizes that no one—not even his best friends—can make his life happy and successful unless he does it himself.

(Catholic Press Features)



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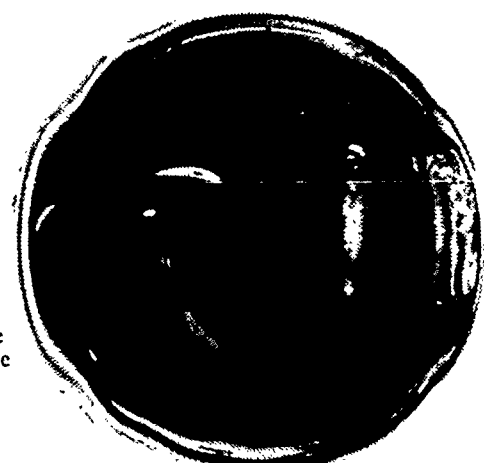
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End of Line For 'Messenger'

Dayton — (RNS) — The "Messenger" periodicals, which have served U.S. Catholic schools for generations, will cease publication in June, according to George A. Pflaum Publisher, Inc.

George A. Pflaum Jr., who heads the firm, said the company will concentrate efforts in other educational areas especially the field of religious education now served by two growing Pflaum publications, "Discover" and "Witness." "Discover" is for grades 1 through 3, while "Witness" serves the intermediate and high school grades.

"Messenger" publications have been losing circulation steadily in recent years. Circulation, which at one time had reached 2.5 million, has dipped to 1.4 million.

PRESS SPEAKER

New York — (NC) — Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and of the United States Catholic Conference, will be the chief speaker at the 60th annual Catholic Press Association convention in Chicago from May 20 to 23. His theme will be "Five Years after the Council — Where Does the American Church Stand Today?"

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